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Kinakh elected new prime minister

By Askold Krushelnycky

(RFE/RL)—The Ukrainian parliament on May 29 elected Anatoly Kinakh as the country's new prime minister.

Kinakh needed a simple majority of the 450-member parliament to approve his nomination. He received 239 votes to two, with 12 abstentions. This was 13 more than the minimum required.

Kinakh replaces the former prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, a pro-Western reformer. Yushchenko resigned last month after an alliance of Communists and parties loyal to the powerful business interests known as "oligarchs" secured a vote of non-confidence in his government.

Until recently, Kinakh served as a deputy minister in charge of industrial policy. He has also served as chairman of the industrialists and entrepreneurs' association.

Centrist, business, and moderate reform deputies — the Democratic Union, Greens, Labor Ukraine, Yabluko, Ukraine's Regions, and Solidarnist parliamentary groups as well as some nonaligned lawmakers.— all supported Kinakh's candidacy. The Communists — with 112 seats, the largest single party in the parliament — did not vote and neither did parties on the nationalist right — Fatherland, Rukh (both factions), and Reforms-Congress — or those controlled by business groups opposed to Kuchma.

After the vote, Kinakh told parliament that he was aware of the challenges ahead of him and would work for effective reforms and for what he described as "constructive cooperation between different branches of government."

In remarks made before the vote, Kinakh promised to continue reforms begun by the Yushchenko government, a pledge that cost him Communist support. He repeated the promise to journalists after the vote.

"We have no extra time to start reforms and form state social-economic policy all over again from the beginning. I will do my best to consolidate the positive achievements we have, including the achievements of the former government, as well as doing everything to deepen structural reforms and to increase the efficiency of work in the field of social problems."

Kinakh, who is 46 years old and a former shipbuilding engineer, is a close associate of President Leonid Kuchma. The support of the industrialists and entrepreneurs' association, which Kinakh led and which embraces both the large Soviet-era industries and new businesses, greatly contributed to Kuchma's victory in the 1999 presidential race.

Kinakh said his priorities as prime minister would be tax reform, support for industry, and protection of domestic producers. He also wants to rebuild the trust of Western investors and financial institutions that have been shaken by months of political turmoil and mass demonstrations against Kuchma.

Many commentators had predicted that Kuchma would have a tough time getting his prime minister's nomination approved by parliament. But the director of the independent Institute for Statehood and Democracy, Ivan Lozowy, said Kuchma had put great pressure on politicians to secure the vote he wanted.

"This was a test of the president's strength. So there were very serious and intensive consultations [with politicians] that led to the prime minister being confirmed. But I would not say a margin of 13 votes was a great victory. Thirteen votes out of 450 seats cannot be called an overwhelming mandate of trust by the parliament."

Lozowy says that Kinakh has no strong political or financial base because he has not allied himself closely with parliamentary political groupings in the past. The analyst thinks that Kinakh will not embark on anything controversial as prime minister.

Along with other analysts, Lozowy believes Kinakh is a temporary figure installed by Kuchma to prepare the ground for next year's parliamentary elections, which Kuchma hopes will provide him

Cont. on P. 5

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PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Bubka in Edmonton...

Six-time World Champion pole vaulter Serhiy Bubka was in Edmonton, May 24, to meet with the Ukrainian community and promote the 2001 World Athletics Championships. Pictured above: former Alberta Cabinet Minister and Premiership contender Julian Koziak points Bubka in the direction of the Games' site. (For more, see Page 14.)

PHOTO — MARKIAN RADOMSKY

...Moroz in Toronto

That same day, Ukrainian Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz was in Toronto where he discussed the current political situation in Ukraine with members of that city's Ukrainian community. (For more see Page 5).

Омельченко зібрав дані про приховування валют високопосадовцями Президента

Майя Нагорняк

(Радіо «Свобода»)—22 травня на прес–конференції у Києві народний депутат України Григорій Омельченко підтримав законопроєкт Віктора Медведчука під назвою «Про державну контролю за декларування доходів осіб уповноважених на виконання функцій держави та їхніми витратами». Документ пропонує встановити юридичну відповідальність за порушення законодавства «Про декларування доходів осіб уповноважених на виконання функцій держави» з метою посилити боротьбу з приховуванням доходів від оподаткування. Вадою документу є те, що відсутнє питання давності доходів і витрат високопосадовців, що стало питанням для дискусій у сесійній залі.

Омельченко повідомив 22 травня у Верховній Раді про підсумки своєї поїздки за кордон, під час якої він зібрав дані про приховування великих валютних коштів високопосадовцями з оточення президента.

Усі прізвища цих осіб, які приховують валютну виручку на закордонних рахунках, Григорій Омельченко назвав голові парламенту Іванові Плющу. Серед цих прізвищ – прізвище одного з кандидатів на посаду прем'єр–міністра, тому Григорій Омельченко попросив Івана Плюща передати список президентові, аби він не вносив згадану особу на посаду глави уряду.

Прізвища злочинців Омельченко повідомить орієнтовно за десять днів, коли наступне його відрядження за кордон підтвердить результати перевірки.

Прокуратура натискає на Замковенка

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Суддя Печерського районного суду Києва Микола Замковенко, у робочому кабінеті якого київська міськпрокуратура 24–го травня провела обшук, вважає дії прокуратури «тиском на суддів».

25–го травня у Києві в інтерв'ю журналістам, коментуючи порушення Київської міськпрокуратури кримінальної справи за фактом недбалості, М. Замковенко висловив думку, що «якихось посадових осіб, які порушили цю кримінальну справу, не влаштовували рішення», які він ухвалював. «Це – тиск на моїх колег: ось ми поставили на місце одного «крутого» суддю, дивіться – з вами таке ж буде», – сказав він.

Відповідаючи на запитання, чи не вважає він факт порушення кримінальної справи тиском особисто на нього, М. Замковенко зазначив, що на нього «складно натиснути». «Скільки б на мене не тиснули морально, я не ламаюся, і ноги у мене не підкошуються», – наголосив він. М. Замковенко також сказав, що знає «цих замовників», однак відмовився назвати їх.

Суддя не виключає, що поява кримінальної справи була викликана його рішенням у справі екс–віце–прем'єра Юлії Тимошенко (своїм рішенням М. Замковенко звільнив Ю. Тимошенко з–під арешту). Водночас, М. Замковенко не виключає й інших мотивів: «Можливо, позовами до М. Потебенька, генерального прокурора України, про захист честі і гідності, може позовною заявою одного прокурора про відновлення на роботі».

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Міліція не береже нас... навіть у СІЗО

Ігор Столяров

(Радіо «Свобода»)—До мене, як журналіста, що прагне бути незалежним серед багатьох підвладних, останнім часом особливо часто звертаються люди, що потрапили у неприємні ситуації, пов'язані з працівниками міліції. Сумна реальність є такою, що навіть після набуття за допомогою Кіровоградського обласного суду влади в Одесі Руслан Боделан та його команда неспроможні були виконати головну обіцянку: забезпечити спокій у причорноморському місті та покращити тут криміногенну ситуацію.

Лише нещодавно ми довідалися про те, що внаслідок теракту серед білого дня через вибух підкладеного пристрою ногу втратила молода жінка – дружина одного з місцевих підприємців. перед тим було вчинено спробу замаху на життя помічника народного депутата України Андрія Звонаржа, вбивство голови обласного арбітражного суду Бориса Вихрова та журналіста Ігоря Бондаря. І це лише вбивства, про які намагалися голосно писати кілька газет, які ще не побоюються різноманітних, вже звичних позовів від керівників різного рангу обласної міліції до преси.

Чиновники від міліції полюбляють захищати у пресі власну гідність та ділову репутацію за допомогою судових органів. На щастя, переважна більшість судових засідань завершуються на користь так званих «правоохоронців», а у журналістів шансів перемогти немає майже жодних...

Нам і далі продовжують сповіщати у різноманітних звітах про покращення криміногенної ситуації в місті, але люди гинуть, а багатьох злочинців так і не знаходять.

Не буду знову нагадувати міліції прізвища тих, чия доля не є відомою ще від 1998 року внаслідок викрадень та непрофесійної діяльності пошукових служб. Досить значним є і перелік одеських журналістів, до яких стріляли, яких вбивали чи намагалися вбити: Ігор Розов, Борис Дерев'янко, Леонід Капелюшний, Володимир Бехтер, Людмила Добровольська, Ігор Бондар та багато інших...

Але найжахливіше на серці стає тоді, коли чуєш про загадкові смерті у в'язницях, слідчих ізоляторах, у місцях, де життя людини мали б берегти перш за все.

Читачам нагадаю: свого часу обласна організація Української республіканської партії оприлюднила Заяву, де вимагала притягти до відповідальності керівників правоохоронних органів Одеської області. Причина була зрозуміла: відбулося звіряче вбивство родини прихильника реформувань на селі, фермера Андрія Декусара.

Минуло небагато часу від дня вбивства, а міліція вже рапортує що злочинець знайдений та відповість за скоєне перед судом... Сталося не так, як гадалося... Підозрюваний, як стало відомо, закінчив життя самогубством – повісився на напірнику. Першою про це повідомила тоді опозиційна тодійшній обласній владі телекомпанія «АРТ», чим викликала незадоволення у колах правоохоронців.

Місця позбавлення волі і далі залишаються недосяжними для незалежних журналістів, а про відсутність будьякого дотримання прав людини у їхніх стінах взагалі говорити не доводиться. Найцікавіше те, що про нестерпні умови перебування у багатьох в'язницях та слідчих ізоляторах країни, зокрема, і одеських, пишуть і правозахисники, і ті, хто там побував. Тим часом, працівники міліції залишаються на попередніх позиціях, постійно наголошуючи, що «порушень виявлено не було»... Принциповість, яка просто викликає подив...

Про те, як пройшов День героїв у Львові

Галина Терещук

(Радіо «Свобода»)—У Львові вже традиційно третя неділя травня святкується як День героїв. І цього разу тисячі львів'ян, воїнів УПА, дивізії «Галичина», колишніх політв'язнів зібралися разом, аби ще раз вшанувати пам'ять про тих, хто віддав своє життя за незалежність України. Ветерани визвольних змагань проігнорували урочистості, які цього року проводилися у місті з нагоди Дня перемоги.

Ще у 1941 році на других зборах Організації Українських Націоналістів було ухвалене рішення про те, щоб кожної третьої неділі травня вшановувати пам'ять визволителів України. Адже у травні 1926 року було вбито Симона Петлюру, у травні 1938 року загинув Євген Коновалець. І хоча офіційно День героїв на рівні регіону почали святкувати лише кілька років тому, однак починаючи з 1941 року вояки УПА завжди відзначали його і в сибірських таборах, і на волі.

Ось що розповіла Марія Іваськевич, яка надавала медичну допомогу воякам української повстанської армії, брат та батько якої віддали свої життя за незалежність України:

«Тисячі людей воювали в страшних умовах. У них не було ні їжі, ні одежі, ні лікарні, ні зброї, ні даху над головою. У них війна була не такою, як на фронті, коли ворог попереду. Тут небезпека, нещастя чатували на бідного українця із–за кожної хати, кожного куща».

20–го травня керівники області та міста разом з ветеранами визвольних змагань поклали квіти до могил українських січових стрільців, воїнів УПА, побували у селі Білогорща, де загинув командувач Української повстанської армії генерал Роман Шухевич. А біля пам'ятника Кобзареві відбулося святкове віче. Тут прозвучали виступи і голови облдержадміністрації Михайла Гладія, і міського голови Василя Куйбіди. Вони називали вояків героями і обіцяли їм відпочинок у ново–збудованому Моршинському санаторії. Однак усі ці виступи старші люди сприймали без особливої ейфорії.

У розмові з колишніми повстанцями я почула і про їхні мізерні пенсії, і про те, що й досі немає справедливого ставлення до них у незалежній Україні. Адже про них політики згадують, здебільшого тоді, коли їм це вигідно. Бо 9 травня у своїх промовах ті ж керівники згадували лише про ветеранів Другої світової війни чи то пак Великої Вітчизняної і точнісінько так само урочисто покладали квіти.

На віче голова львівського крайового братства УПА Олесь Гуменюк сказав:

«Я щасливий, що сьогодні сюди прийшло так багато людей. Комуністи у День перемоги кричали, що нам залишилося лише кілька днів. Я щасливий, тому, що це брехня. Закликаю усіх не забути про те, що ми мусимо добитися, аби злочинну комуністичну партію ліквідувати взагалі».

У День героїв було багато стрілецьких пісень, спогадів, і розмов про Україну. Але чи про таку державу мріяли колишні повстанці?

Вони вважають: герої – це ті, хто захищав найвищі національні ідеали, хто віддавав за них життя, а не торгував власною гідністю.

Про «День народження без Гії»

Галина Терещук

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Як вже повідомлялося, у Львові громадський комітет опору «За правду» організував акцію «День народження без Гії». Аби вшанувати пам'ять загиблого журналіста о восьмій годині 22 травня зібралися його друзі, журналісти, і просто пересічні львів'яни.

У центрі Львова у проїзді Крива Липа встановлено довгий стіл, на ньому – біла скатертина, виноградна гілка, збан червоного вина, свічка, паляниця.

Ті, хто знав Георгія, згадали про нього, про його любов до людей, щире і відкрите серце. Упродовж цілого дня у проїзді львів'яни оглядали фільм про Георгія Гонгадзе, слухали радіомарафон «День народження без Гії», а ввечері було запалено 32 свічки.

Активісти УНА–УНСО прикували себе до залізничних шляхів

(«Українська правда»)—У Києві активісти організації УНА–УНСО, 22 травня, перекрили залізничні шляхи на міському вокзалі. Двоє дівчат, одна з яких неповнолітня, лягли на рейки і буквально прикували себе ланцюгами. Учасники акції вимагали від влади України звільнити 12 політичних в'язнів, які зараз знаходяться під арештом в слідчому ізоляторі СБУ.

Через це вдень 22 травня була заблокована віправка поїзда №59 Київ–Чернівці. До місця акції протесту були стягнуті підрозділи міліції, на вокзал також прибули деякі депутати Верховної Ради.

У районі 15 годин співробітники лінійного відділення внутрішніх справ залізничної станції «Київ–Пасажирський» розблокували 10 шляхів.

Clark "genuinely interested" in following up on D & D issue

By Marco Levytsky

Progressive Conservative Leader Joe Clark is "genuinely interested" in the Denaturalization and Deportation (D & D) issue and will have his staff follow up on information relating to it, say members of a Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council delegation which met with him at his Calgary Centre Constituency Office, May 25.

"He was very interested in the issue and he requested that we provide him with followup information and indicated he would have a member of his staff continue to monitor the process," said Bill Pidruchney, a former president of both the Alberta Council and the Edmonton Branch of the UCC.

Pidruchney said the key points made by the delegation were that D & D is a misuse of the Citizenship Act, that it is making refugees out of Canadian citizens, and that refugees who land in Canada have more legal rights than Canadian citizens who have lived here for 50 years, because there is no appeal process under the D & D policy.

"The main thrust of our message was that this is an abuse of judicial process and rights of Canadian citizenship that are fundamental to Canadian law and democracy," said Pidruchney.

Eugene Harasymiw, UCC - APC Director and Member of the council's Government Issues Committee, added that Clark asked whether the UCC had made any contacts with any other members of his caucus on the issue.

"I indicated that I had contacted Peter MacKay (MP, Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough) on the issue of (Justice Minister) Anne McLellan's retention of the services of Neal Sher.

In 1998 Sher, the former director of the US Office of Special Investigations, was hired as a consultant to the War Crimes Division of the Justice Department of Canada.

During Sher's appearance before the House of Commons Justice Committee on April 28, 1998, MacKay questioned his handling of the John Demjanjuk case — in particular the withholding of evidence which could prove Demjanjuk's innocence from defense attorneys.

Clark was presented with several documents including UCC National's position on D & D.

In it UCC refers to a 1995 Department of Justice statement that says: "The key criterion in all these proceedings is the existence of some evidence of individual criminality. If that cannot be proven, no proceedings will be considered."

Citing several recent court cases, UCC states that "the Canadian Government is not abiding by its undertaking to initiate proceedings against Canadians for events that occurred a half century ago only if there is 'evidence of individual criminality'.

"The UCC continues to assert that in cases where 'evidence of individual criminality' is uncovered, the Government of Canada should prosecute such individuals before Canadian courts of criminal jurisdiction in accordance with Canadian criminal law and Canadian standards of evidence in criminal proceedings.

"According to the UCC, the Canadian Government should not resort to denaturalization and deportation proceedings to deal with the issue of Canadians suspected of war crimes during the Second World War since:

"(a) such proceedings are inadequate to determine a person's guilt or innocence as a war criminal;

"(b) such proceedings suppose, therefore, that another country will address this issue in Canada's place; and

"(c) applications for immigration and connected documents have been destroyed in large numbers over the years by government employees.

Demjanjuk faces deportation for a second time

John Demjanjuk, the aging Ukrainian immigrant said by the U.S. government to have served as a Nazi death camp guard in World War Two, was put on trial for the second time in 20 years May 29 with his attorney arguing that "trial by document" will never uncover the truth, reported Reuters and the Associated Press.

The burly, 81-year-old retired auto worker did not appear in U.S. District Court to face government charges that he lied about his wartime past and should be stripped of his U.S. citizenship. But he could testify in his own defense, his lawyer said.

Demjanjuk was not required to appear, though his son John Demjanjuk, Jr., and son-in-law were both at the defense table in Judge Paul Matia's courtroom.

"Either the government's history is right or the defendant's is," prosecutor Edward Stutman of the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations said in his opening statement.

"The issues in this case are narrow. At the heart of this case is seven wartime documents" that Stutman said will show that Demjanjuk worked as a guard in three German concentration camps including Sobibor.

Prosecutors began the laborious process of calling a handwriting specialist and three more expert witnesses who will attempt to authenticate the documents, including a disputed identification card bearing what appears to be a young Demjanjuk's picture issued to him at the SS-run Trawniki training camp.

Defense attorney Michael Tigar said in his opening statement that the government's case amounted to "hearsay records" that he planned to challenge at nearly every opportunity. As to the infamous identification card, Tigar alleged the photograph had been replaced and some of the inks used were of Soviet origin and not German.

"Without the testimony of any live witness who saw John Demjanjuk commit any (of the charged) acts ... this is a trial by document," Tigar said. He said no wartime Demjanjuk signature exists to support the government's view, nor is there fingerprint or DNA evidence. Some of the documents are suspicious and may be forgeries, he said.

He said the height and dental work listed on the government's documents do not match Demjanjuk's.

"The government cannot meet its burden of proof," Tigar said.

"We will show the court a scenario that explains how the government, once again, has got it wrong," Tigar said. "After 22 years, the odyssey of John Demjanjuk is about to come to an end."

Demjanjuk, who gained entry into the United States in 1951 claiming he had spent much of the war as a German prisoner captured in the Crimea from the Soviet army, was first charged with war crimes in 1977 and stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 in what would become an embarrassing case for the Justice Department.

Apparently swayed by the identification of Demjanjuk by survivors of the Treblinka extermination camp, prosecutors alleged that Demjanjuk — whose given name was Ivan — was the brutal death camp guard nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible."

Extradited and put on trial in Israel, Demjanjuk was sentenced to death in 1988 for being Ivan the Terrible of Treblinka, despite his denials that he was never there. But evidence mostly from inside the Soviet Union, some of which had been available to U.S. prosecutors, convinced the Israeli Supreme Court that another man, Ivan Marchenko, was likely the brutal guard.

The Israeli court freed Demjanjuk in 1993 and he returned to the United States where judges reprimanded the Justice Department and Judge Matia ultimately restored his citizenship.

Stutman did not address the past errors, but said Demjanjuk's various alibis for his wartime activities offered over the past two decades have been rejected by U.S. and Israeli courts "time and time again."

The most recent version of events offered by Tigar based on purported new evidence from Ukrainian authorities is that Demjanjuk's now-dead cousin, Ivan Andreievich Demjanjuk, took his identity when recruited by the Germans to help in "Operation Reinhard," the Nazi's "Final Solution" for the Polish Jews.

Tigar said Ukrainians who served in the Soviet army and were captured and recruited by Germany were loathe to provide their real names because they were about to betray their country. Also, Germans had trouble with Ukrainian names and might have mangled translations.

The trial, to be ruled on by Judge Matia, was expected to last at least two to three weeks, but deportation proceedings could take years to complete.

AUSRL demands apology from CBC over Telegdi report

(UkrNews)—The Alberta Ukrainian Self-Reliance League is demanding that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation issue a public apology to Kitchener-Waterloo MP Andrew Telegdi "and to all those Canadians hurt by your shoddy, insensitive and despicable piece of news reporting" over a news item broadcast on May 8.

"It is the position of the Alberta Ukrainian Self-Reliance League — and we are confident that it is also the feeling of many Canadians — that your news story does not in any way advance public-interest telecasting; instead, the program was an exercise in distortion, bias, obfuscation and, to put it bluntly, 'yellow journalism'," wrote AUSRL President Eugene Harasymiw in a May 21 letter to the CBC

"This particular story, covered very ineptly by Raj Ahluwalia, supposedly explained the plight of Mr. Telegdi in the wake of remarks attributed to him to the effect that his government's deportation policy was no better than similar policies pursued by Nazi Germany in the 1930's and 1940's," wrote Harasymiw.

"It focused on the indignation, "hurt" and insult that Mr. Telegdi's comparison supposedly caused the Canadian Jewish community. Viewers were provided generous helpings of this reaction from the likes of top officials at the Canadian Jewish Congress. Every effort was made to portray Mr. Helmut Oberlander as a hardened Nazi war criminal (which, for your information, the hearing judge specifically found he was not).

"Your news story is unacceptable to citizens of a free and democratic society, for these reasons:

"1. It completely ignored the real issue — legitimate and well-founded opposition to the federal government's denaturalization and deportation policy. The CBC is thus responsible for deliberately omitting to mention that Mr. Telegdi (now joined by at least two other Liberal MP's) is leading a drive to bring to light both the fundamental flaws of this politically-inspired policy, along with its inherent procedural unfairness. Mr. Telegdi's main point is that a hand-picked group from Cabinet is not suited to decide the citizenship of any Canadian — only the Courts of this country are.

"2. It was 100% one-sided in condemning Mr. Telegdi's precipitous comment. By doing so, the story attempted to equate the seriousness of the harm (purportedly) done by those remarks with the urgency of the government continuing to pursue the policy that evoked them. Not one mention was made that the essence of Mr. Telegdi's principled stand against denaturalization and deportation is now supported by the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Civil Liberties Assoc., B'nai Brith Canada and numerous ethnic-based organizations, totalling over two dozen in number. How could your reporter conceivably have omitted that fact? Are we not to conclude that only one group in Canada is worthy of having their reaction recorded? Why would that be?" queried Harasymiw.

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В третю болючу річницю відходу у вічність, 2–го червня 1998 р., моєї дорогої двоюрідної сестри, хрестної мами і тети наших дітей, Марії Александри, яку усі знали і кликали «Нуна», складаємо в Її пам'ять як нев'янучий вінок на Її могилу, пожертву на пресовий фонд «Українських Вістей». Вічна Їй пам'ять!

Двоюрідний брат Михайло з дружиною Богданкою, племінники: похрестниця Христя і Роман Кучер

Початок підготовки до антипрезидентського референдуму на Львівщині

Галина Терещук

(Радіо «Свобода»)—У Львові бідбулися збори ініціятивних груп з проведення Всеукраїнського референдуму за народною ініціятивою щодо дострокового припинення повноважень президента України Леоніда Кучми.

Поки що у Львові створено три ініціятивні групи. До першої увійшли представники Соціялістичної партії України, Союзу офіцерів, СДПУ та жіночої організації «За майбутнє України». До другої – партії «Батьківщина» і «Собор», а до третьої – представники комітету «За Україну без Кучми»: Соціялістична партія України, «Єдність», Українська консервативна республіканська партія, УНА–УНСО, Українська Християнсько–демократична партія і громадський діяч Юрій Шухевич.

На зборах ініціятивної групи представників комітету «За Україну без Кучми» були присутні 237 осіб. Однак працівники Львівської міської ради, навіть не рахуючи присутніх, припустили, що у залі зібралося коло 150 чоловік (хоча у приміщенні через брак вільних стільців люди навіть стояли). Лідер львівських соціялістів Євген Таліпов пообіцяв, що наступного разу вони змусять чиновників зробити привселюдний рахунок присутніх у залі.

На зборах громадський діяч, колишній політв'язень Юрій Шухевич закликав усіх присутніх до єдності і праці в ім'я кращого майбутнього України. Далі Юрій Шухевич сказав:

«При владі, за влучним висловом Олександра Мороза, бандократія, яка опанувала Україною: зруйнована промисловість, сільське господарство, розвалено освіту. При повній безконтрольній владі чинних кланів, корупції, яка роз'їдає наше суспільство, на кожному кроці спостерігається зростання злочинності. І все це ми маємо за часів правління Леоніда Кучми. Це вже просто ганебно перед цілим світом, що ми ще можемо терпіти таку владу над собою. Оскільки народ є дійсно джерелом всякої влади, ми сьогодні зібралися, щоб заініціювати референдум, який повинен усунути Кучму і все його кримінальне оточення від влади».

У декларації ініціятивної групи комітету «За Україну без Кучми» сказано: «Ми вважаємо конституційний шлях зміни правлячого режиму за єдино можливий і свідомо протиставляємо беззаконню і свавіллю влади виключно мирні та правові методи боротьби».

За словами голови обласного осередку СПУ Євгена Талипова, днями будуть проведені аналогічні зібрання ініціятивних груп у 5 районах Львівщини. Отож, зроблено перший крок до створення обласного штабу з підготовки до референдуму. А загалом в області почали діяти 19 районних штабів, до складу яких входить від 15 до 20 осіб.

Невдовзі у Львові з'явиться і студентська ініціятивна група з проведення референдуму. Однак Львівський громадський комітет опору «За правду», членами якого є, здебільшого, студенти, не підтримує ідею референдуму, але й не забороняє студеям брати у ньому участь.

Експедиція «Україна–Гімалаї 2001» завершилася сходженням на Манаслу

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Національна експедиція «Україна–Гімалаї 2001», присвячена десятій річниці незалежності України, завершилася сходженням на один зі світових велетнів – Манаслу (8163 метри) за досі ніким не пройденим маршрутом без застосування кисневих масок, повідомив УНІАН керівник експедиції, майстер спорту, заслужений тренер України Валентин Симоненко.

За його словами, першосходження проводилося по південному ребру цього піку спортсменами Мстиславом Горбенком, Вадимом Леонтьєвим, Михайлом Загірняком, Сергієм Пугачовим, які підняли на вершині прапори України і Непалу.

Він також наголосив, що встановлення проміжних таборів і штурм вершини в останні дні ускладнювалися суворими погодними умовами, внаслідок чого в районі Манаслу зупинили свою роботу й евакуювалися італійська та польська експедиції, так і не досягши своєї мети.

Прокуратура Польщі висунула офіційне обвинуваченя

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Органи прокуратури Польщі у зв'язку із вбивством польським поліцейським українського громадянина Сергія Кудрю у січні ц.р. висунули офіційне обвинувачення двом польським поліцейським за фактом перевищення службових повноважень і недбалості у виконанні своїх обов'язків.

Як повідомив заступник керівника прес–служби МЗС України Сергій Бороденков, 23–го травня переведено зі статусу свідків у справі поліцейських у статус підозрюваних.

У ході розгляду справи також отримано свідчення одного свідка трагічного інциденту, які повністю підтверджують версію дружини загиблого.

Як ми раніше повідомляли, 28–го січня ц.р. у Польщі при затриманні автомобіля за перевищення швидкості польський поліцейський смертельно поранив українського громадянина Сергія Кудрю, жителя Київської області, який повертався в Україну разом з вагітною дружиною.

Зволіканий візит Римського Папи

о. Михайло Ковальчик

Не хочеться входити у дискусію про візиту Римського Папи Івана Павла II у надходячому м. червні цього першого року нового тисячоліття.

Виступ московського патріярха Алексія 13–го травня ц.р. спонукав мене поділитись з читачами «Українських Вістей» кількома думками. Нетактовна постава патріярха до приїзду Папи в Україну з численними застереженнями була не на місці, бо запрошення до Папи наспіло від уряду вільної та незалежної України. А що він страшить Папу щодо можливої поїздки у Москву, то тільки бідна втеча з дипломатичної невдачі.

Що Московська патріярхія часто негативно реагує на події в Україні – нічого нового, вона це виконувала послушно вчас Російської імперії царів; виконувала вона це дуже сумлінно вчас ліквідації віднови Української православної церкви по першій світовій війні і виконувала вона це з вдоволенням нехриста вчас насильної ліквідації Української греко–католицької церкви у 1946 р.

Будучи свідомі того, що історично Російська православна церква була разом з представниками Росії, білої і червоної, спричинником жорстокого знущання над волелюбним українським народом, як жодна церковна одиниця у новітній історії, ми можемо лише дивуватись цим нападам можливої російської істерії. Англійці, які главу корони ставлять, як оборонця англіканської церкви, ніколи продовж англійської експансії не могли дорівняти російським церковним служителям.

Продовж останніх десять років, від самого дня відновлення Української греко–католицької церкви в Україні йде багато звинувачень в її бік так відносно самої віднови, рівно ж як зрадника українського народу та Церкви, що насильно відбирає свої вікові надбання.

Українська греко–католицька церква продовж віків зазнавала багато оскаржень і звинувачень на її адресу. Оскаржено її, як сталого коляборанта усяких близьких та дальших агресорів, так, як поляків, австро–угорців та німецьких агресорів поневолення народу; оскаржено її, як інструмент задурманення народу; оскаржено її сотками памфлетів, як речника застою та не менше, як вислужника чужих спецслужб. А сама історія, правдива і сьогодні всім доступна, ясно доказує нам щось зовсім противне. Українська греко–католицька церква, як одиниця, стояла з нашим народом та його боронила так на українських землях, як також на поселеннях, де б наш нарід не шукав свойого шматка хліба, від Аргентини, Бразилії, Парагваю до північної Америки, а вже по другій світовій війні в Австралії та у країнах Західньої Европи. Наш єпископат, духовенство, монашество, Згромадження Сестер та вірні склали свої кості на далекому Сибірі тільки тому, що відмовились бути зрадниками свого народу у побудові «одної неділимої імперії».

Ми сьогодні знаємо певно, що наш перший Патріярх Йосиф Сліпий, що 18 років терпів сибірську російську голгофту, дістав запрошення при умові зради обійняти головство Російської церкви. Ми знаємо сьогодні, що злобою і насильством нищено було квіт нашого народу і нашої церкви.

Друга сторона нападу у наш бік, що ми домагаємось своїх церковних та культурних посілостей, не знаходить у культурному та правному світі жодних непорозумінь. По сьогодні культурний світ старається повернути власникам вкрадене по другій світовій війні майно. З тверджень Російської церкви так не виходить, буцімто ця церква конфіскувала, як коляборант червоної Росії, усе «по чесному». Крадіж або незаконне посідання чужого майна лишається крадежею навіть на основі російського церковного права, а таке вони видали для своїх вірних декілька років назад.

Від хвилини подання новини приїзду Папи у грудні 2000 року, Московська церква оплакувала приїзд Папи, та навіть намовила свого екзарха у Києві, владику Володимира звернутись листом протесту до Папи. Який нехристиянський почин при вході у нове тисячоліття та який негідний прийом у нашій добі, де всі народи сходяться, де примирюються вікові непорозуміння та знаходиться час для взаємного пізнання.

Нам всім відомо з історії, що Грецька православна церква, а саме Царгородський патріярхат, у богословських та адміністративних справах, був Римом подекуди зневажений. Це були нещасні роки середньвіччя. Їх забувати не треба, їх треба розв'язувати по нормах сьогоднішньої доби. І грецьке православ'я має духове, моральне та канонічне право цього вимагати від своєї посестри, що через своїх надмірних «службовців» довела до цього по сьогодні оплакуваного роздору. Папа Іван Павло II так й перепросив покривджених братів у Греції. Однак Римська церква ніколи не доконала того грубого знущання над своєю посестрою, що зробила Московська церква при надбанні титулу «Патріяршої», де Царгородського патріярха і його оточення мучено у в'язниці у самій Москві. Так Російська православна церква подала гнаній Церкві за менше як 130 років від загарбання Константинополя турками свою «братню руку», яку вона по сьогодні простягає всім сліпим і несвідомим прихильникам. Це говорить історія віків.

Не виключено, що саме цей страх перед негуманним трактуванням Царгороду довів Київську православну митрополію шукати саме паро років пізніше у Берестейській угоді 1596 р. своєрідне самозбереження. Ця тема по сьогодні була і є нажаль не у стадії дослідів. У час екуменізму, релігійного порозуміння та шукання доріг злагоди на основі науки нашого Спасителя, тяжко так «глибоко» занурюватись в історію, коли можна це зробити вже віками зготовленими цитатами. Бере часу щоб історики «перетворились» на тих, що пишучи аннали народу, не забували також для себе самих та для своїх читачів дати нагоду пізнати «істину».

Українська церква по двох боках конфесій ще довго ходитиме шляхом темряви, аж до цього історичного моменту, коли богослови та історики зрозуміють, що б'є остання година.

Російська православна церква відчула биття усполох своїх батюшків, що на фронті буденного життя бачать власними очима, як їхнє стадо від них відрікається. Тисячі, а то й сотки тисяч вірних, сунуть у табір всіляких проповідників. Не Римський Папа стає їм загрозою, а їхня власна питома вікова зарозумілість, що духово вони приборкають народ божий державними апаратчиками і сибірськими концлагерами.

Так стоїть справа й на Заході. Боротьба за кожний індивідуум відбувається по радіо, телебаченні та газетах. Понад 30 млн. римокатоликів лишили свою церкву в Південній Америці та пішли за проповідниками новітніх т. зв. «християнських» церков.

Цікаве, що Римського Папу вітають всілякі народи, неконечно йому та його церкві прихильні, але вітають його, як ми тут вітаємо Далай Ламу, як Тібетського лідера, як духового провідника, якого так світ сьогодні потребує.

Римський Папа їде до своїх вірних на молитву. Вітатимуть його мільйони вірних, вітатимуть його державні представники, вітатимуть його і українці православні, що при потиску руки не бояться стратити своєї віри. А страху не треба мати!

Російська православна церква кричить з великим зойком на сполох усім віруючим, бо братню руку, що їй подавала Римська церква через останніх 40 років, вона нехтувала. Рим, який досвідчений у історії віків, хоча подекуди виглядало за останні десятки років а головно у відношенні до нас самих, що піддається московським претенсіям, однак ніколи в світі Церква не передасть естафету Московській патріяршії і зневажить духову владу тисячоліть православного Константинополя. Не зумівши переконати Ватиканські кола до такої зради історії, російська церква користується усякими середниками модерної комунікації, щоб довести до невдачі візити Папи. У такий спосіб постраждає честь Папи, а найбільше постраждає український нарід, якому у колі вільних народів місця не сміє бути, а тільки залежність від Московської патріяршії тримати надалі тих наших «хрещених гречкосіїв» від зовнішнього світу.

Болить багатьох й це, що саме з приїздом Папи будуть вивищені до числа блаженних лише поодинокі сини і доньки українського народу, що стали жертвами саме російського свавілля над нашим народом. Ми напевно лишимось невдоволені, і це слушно, що число замале, що в нас з кожного села по кілька мучеників Христа ради, однак так воно є, що не всі по смерті видвигаються на п'єдесталь історії. Ми молимось, щоб сл. Б. Митрополит Андрей Шептицький знайшов своє гідне місце.

Ми не здаваймось, що ми вповні не відшкодовані історією. Прийде час, що будемо, тому пишім заздалегідь життя наших славетних мужів та жінок, так, як це дуже слушно роблять євреї. Світ рахується з фактами, а не з добрими мріями.

Візита Римського Папи була зволікана до моменту де в Папи сил не стає, де підкопане здоров'я. Збагнув Римський Папа, що годі зволікати та чекати на дружній почин Російської церкви.

Kuchma will be gone by Summer, Moroz reiterates

By Marco Levytsky *(From an audio tape)*

Ukrainian Socialist Leader Oleksandr Moroz is standing by his earlier prediction that President Leonid Kuchma will be gone by Summer.

"Summer has not yet arrived," he replied to a question regarding an earlier prediction made in New York, while speaking to about 200 people at a public meeting organized by the Canadian Friends of Ukraine at Toronto's St. Vladimir Institute, May 24.

"I didn't count upon such a level of passivity by our population, but we have accomplished a lot," he said of the movement to force the president's resignation.

He countered arguments that the movement to oust the president leads to loss of investor confidence in Ukraine's economy by pointing out that investors don't have confidence in Ukraine's economy because they have to deal with a criminal element which dictates business dealings in Ukraine.

In his address Moroz charged that the Kuchma administration is leading the country towards a dictatorship.

He said the president has usurped power in Ukraine, ignored the constitution and violated the principle of separation of power between the three levels of government — executive, legislative and judicial — by concentrating it all within his grasp.

Moroz, who first brought the tapes recorded by former presidential security guard Mykola Melnychenko in which Kuchma appears to be implicated in the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze, to light, ridiculed the version of events put forward by Interior Minister Yuri Smirnov on May 15, in which he claimed Gongadze was murdered by drug addicts who themselves were subsequently killed.

He drew specific attention to the official government claim that Gongadze's headless body was transported overnight 130 kilometres from Kyiv (where he was killed) to Tarashcha (where the corpse was found).

Anyone who drives that road at night has to pass through three police checkpoints, Moroz pointed out. Nobody could coverup the transport of a dead body unless they themselves were members of the militia, he added.

"Can you imagine that in Canada — upon the podium of parliament — a minister could lie right in the face of the people and that everybody could see that he's lying. With us, it appears, he can, for now, but that will end. Truth will be established. Verity will triumph, most certainly. We will have a democratic state which Ukrainians want at home and Ukrainians want in the diaspora," he said speaking in impeccable Ukrainian.

Moroz noted that the anti-presidential movement is uniting forces from left, right and centre of the Ukrainian political spectrum.

PHOTO — MARKIAN RADOMSKY

Oleksandr Moroz speaking at St. Vladimir's Institute in Toronto

This provides a unique opportunity for the country to develop a political system under which parties with different ideological outlooks can be in "healthy" competition with each other, rather than "hostility" to each other, as in "normal" European states, he noted.

When asked about the difference between his party and the Communist Party of Ukraine, Moroz replied that one only had to look at the party platforms.

He noted that his party is welcomed at international forums of European social democratic parties, but carefully avoided any direct reference to the Communists, or their policies.

Moroz was not asked why his parliamentary faction abstained (with the exception of two members who voted for) in the recent non-confidence vote ousting the government of former prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, nor was he asked about his party's position on the land reforms initiated by the Yushchenko government.

Replying to a different question, though, he stated that his disclosure of the Melnychenko tapes gave the Yushchenko government six more months of life because Kuchma was planning to get rid of him in December of last year.

This had to be postponed because the president found his own political position weakened as a result of the tapes, Moroz explained.

Kuchma reappoints five cabinet members

(RFE/RL)—President Leonid Kuchma made five cabinet appointments, May 29.

Kuchma appointed Oleh Dubyna — deputy premier for industrial policy in Yushchenko's cabinet — as first deputy premier.

Kuchma also reappointed Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, Defense Minister Oleksandr Kuzmuk, Interior Minister Yuriy Smyrnov, and Minister for Emergency Situations Vasyl Durdynets.

Kuchma said establishing cooperation between the government and the parliament will be a priority task for Kinakh's cabinet.

"If there is no parliamentary coalition on which the cabinet could lean, we do not need such a parliament or such a government," Interfax quoted Kuchma as saying.

That same day he signed a decree introducing the posts of state secretaries and deputy state secretaries for the Cabinet of Ministers and individual ministries, Interfax reported.

The state secretaries are to be appointed for five-year terms.

Kuchma's spokesman, Volodymyr Lytvyn, explained that the decree was necessitated by frequent cabinet reshuffles which, he argued, threaten to "disorganize the executive branch" in the country's "period of transition and political structuring."

The state secretaries are to deal with day-to-day running of the government and provide continuity between consecutive cabinets.

Meanwhile, Oleksandr Volkov, leader of the Democratic Union parliamentary caucus, said the parliamentary groups that voted to approve Kinakh should propose their ministers for a new coalition cabinet.

"It cannot be otherwise, since then this country would have no future," the agency quoted Volkov as saying.

Kinakh elected new prime minister

Cont. from P. 1

with a majority of supporters.

"I would characterize him [Kinakh] above all as a technocrat. He's a hard-headed person, he's resolute, and he's a practical person. But from another point of view — and from what we know of his past and from what he said recently — he's a person, in my view, who hasn't got a strategic course mapped out and has not got an opinion about — probably is not even interested in — whether Ukraine heads down a Euro-Asian course or toward the West. He's a pragmatic person who, at the moment, is a convenient figure for the [business] clans and the president because he's a temporary figure until the [parliamentary] elections."

Despite Kinakh's assurances that he will continue the economic reforms begun by Yushchenko, Lozowy is skeptical that will happen. He points out that Kinakh had hinted at compromises with the Communists if they supported his bid for the premiership. He also notes that Kuchma, who Lozowy says will try to keep tight control of Kinakh, opposed many of Yushchenko's plans to implement genuine, far-reaching economic reforms, including widespread privatization of large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises.

"As for Kinakh and reforms, one needs a much stronger and more committed person who understands the nature of reforms before we can talk about whether there are chances for the reforms begun by Yushchenko to be continued. I think such chances are very low in a Kinakh government."

Lozowy also says that, despite securing a majority in parliament today, Kinakh will not be able to break through the quarrels and divisions in parliament which have, since independence 10 years ago, stalled the adoption of reforms and other important legislation.

AN-124 set to bring U.S. spyplane home

A crippled U.S. spy plane stranded in China will be coming home in pieces, possibly aboard a huge Ukrainian cargo aircraft, under a tentative agreement between U.S. and Chinese officials, reports the Associated Press.

The two nations are still negotiating details of the return, officials cautioned May 28, but it appeared the impasse has been broken in the incident that soured U.S.-Chinese relations.

The United States has been demanding return of the lumbering EP-3 since it landed in China on April 1 following a collision with a Chinese jet fighter.

"People are talking about the AN-124" to fly the spy plane out, a U.S. administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The transport plane is identified on military Internet sites as the world's largest cargo aircraft.

Under this scenario the wings and tail section of the the EP-3, which is about the size of a Boeing 737 commercial jetliner, would be taken off the plane. The sections would then be flown out in one or two of the huge AN-124 cargo crafts.

The AN-124, which first flew under the Soviet flag in 1982, is made in Ukraine and used commercially.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying the United States would be permitted "in principle" to send an Antonov-124 to pick up the plane.

Opposition unveils plaque to dead journalists

Two days later it is dismantled

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian opposition groups on May 21 marked the birthday of murdered journalist Heorhiy Gongadze by unveiling a stone plaque bearing the names of Gongadze and six other journalists who died under unclear circumstances or were murdered in independent Ukraine, Interfax reported.

The plaque — which was cracked in two by vandals in the yard of the Rivne stonemason hired to complete the work — was placed outside the offices of the UNIAN news agency in Kyiv.

"We are laying a memorial to independent journalists in Ukraine today," Reuters quoted Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz as saying at the ceremony.

Some 150 people staged a rally in front of the presidential administration building later in the day and placed signboards with an inscription "Heorhiy Gongadze Street" on the nearby Constitutional Court building.

Two days later Yuriy Lutsenko, a leader of the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" opposition movement, accused the authorities of removing the memorial plaque that was unveiled without official permission, Interfax reported.

"I think that the only reason [for removing the plaque] was the criminals' fear of seeing the list of their victims and, all the more so, their fear that this list could be seen by many thousands of people," Lutsenko noted.

However, the plaque was later found and put back in its place in front of UNIAN.

The city administration told the agency that it had not given any orders to remove the plaque.

According to Lutsenko, the plaque was dismantled in the early morning of May 23.

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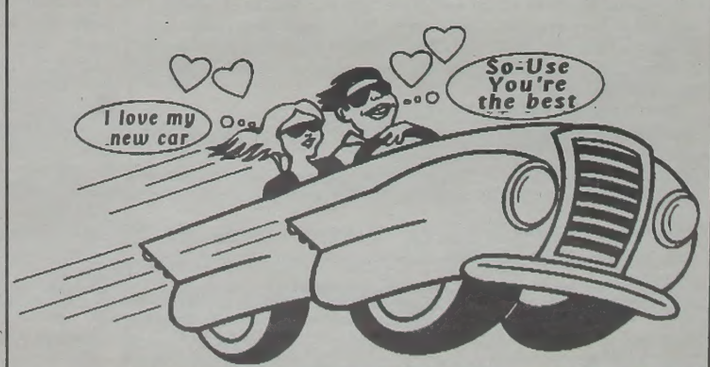

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OSI no better than Nazis

Judging by all the hot water Kitchener-Waterloo MP Andrew Telegdi got into when a newspaper headline misrepresented an analogy he used when commenting upon Canada's grossly unjust Denaturalization and Deportation process, we should be intimidated and — like any other good politically correct media — avoid using any such analogies when commenting on the 24-year-long ordeal that the storm troopers at the US Office of Special Investigations is putting 81-year-old Ukrainian native John Demjanjuk through.

But, instead, let us tell it like it is.

What the witch hunters at the OSI are doing to this aged man is totally unconscionable.

Let's start from the beginning. Demjanjuk was first charged with war crimes in 1976 and stripped of his US citizenship in 1981. He was extradited to Israel, put on trial and sentenced to death in 1988 because he was erroneously identified as the infamous Nazi camp guard know as "Ivan the Terrible".

However, in 1993, the Israeli Supreme Court reversed the sentence and his conviction. Why? Because evidence was produced that he was not "Ivan the Terrible" at all. It was a case of mistaken identity.

And where was this evidence that eventually exonerated Demjanjuk during the time of his US court proceedings? In the trashbins outside the OSI offices.

The OSI, then under the direction of Neal Sher, who was hired three years ago to serve as a consultant on Canada's own witch-hunt, cynically and in violation of all judicial procedures practised by democratic countries, deliberately withheld evidence that they knew would prove Demjanjuk innocent. For this they were subsequently reprimanded by US Courts.

They knew Demjanjuk was innocent, yet they let him face execution. For five years he lived in a cramped, solitary cell facing death, saved only because the Israeli justice system proved to be better in safeguarding civil liberties than the American one.

Not satisfied with what Demjanjuk has already gone through, the American OSI has decided to take another crack at getting their pound of flesh. Now the are going with the tried and true formula of Denaturalization and Deportation, where an actual war crime does not have to be proven — only that he may have lied about entering the United States. (If this latest US tactic seems familiar to Canadian citizens it should be. It is from the American OSI that the Canadian War Crimes Unit of our Justice Department got the D & D idea in the first place.)

John Demjanjuk and his family have suffered incredibly for charges of which he was ultimately found innocent. If anything they deserve compensation from the OSI and the US government which created this organization in the first place. Instead they are put through yet another ordeal simply because the OSI cannot accept the fact that the man is innocent.

Demjanjuk should be left alone for — if anything — humanitarian reasons. Yet humanitarian considerations will never deter the jackboot stompers of the OSI.

This is a vendetta of the worst kind. Pure and simple. What is totally disgraceful is that a country like the United States, which prides itself on its democratic record, chooses to allow this gross abuse of justice to continue, while another country — which also prides itself on its democratic record — Canada — uses this as a model for its own policies.

Stand by us, Canada

By Viktor Yushchenko, *Globe and Mail, May 30, 2001*

I cannot but feel proud about the changes that have taken place in Ukraine over the past year and a half. After the last presidential election in November, 1999, we were able to bring in economic reforms and slash social debts. During our tenure, for the first time in our modern history, we saw real growth. Ukraine's gross domestic product surpassed all estimates by reaching 8.5 per cent in the first four months of 2001, while inflation was lower than we had estimated, at just 4.3 per cent.

This April, Ukraine's rate of industrial production reached 20.8 per cent — the highest in continental Europe. Meanwhile, personal income grew by 7.5 per cent from January to March of 2001. Not only did the country not borrow new money, we made serious reductions in our debt, and began to eliminate non-monetary transactions (barter schemes).

These economic reforms were systemic. Today's economic trends should lead to long-term growth. Speaking figuratively, what we did last year was clear the building site; this year we started the actual construction. In the space of 17 months this government has proved that a wise economic policy inevitably leads to good results. Our efforts were recognized by the international community and supported by the Ukrainian people. Yet on April 26, Ukraine's parliament voted non-confidence in the government. This week I was replaced as prime minister.

Why? We have stability in the currency market, and a budgetary surplus. We've increased salaries in the fields of education, health care, science, culture, and in old-age pensions; a broad agricultural reform has created nearly 6.4 million Ukrainian landowners. Financial stability and trust in the national currency have become the norm.

The formal reason for the non-confidence vote is because the government failed to win the support of parliament. The real reason is that members of parliament moved against those of our government's policies aimed at denying preferences for certain financial-political groupings. They moved against our policy of honest, transparent and equal rules of the game for all, particularly in the area of large-scale privatization.

It's clear that the initiators of the non-confidence vote were the Communists and their tactical allies. Historically, Communists have allied themselves with their ideological opponents on numerous occasions in order to gain power. Such unnatural alliances offer little hope for economic reforms. They can only slow them down.

In this case, the Communists' allies were the oligarchs, unhappy because we were raising the standard of living in the country — among other things — at the expense of the underground economy, which limited their ability to get resources for the next elections. For their part, the Communists could not forgive the government for easing Ukraine's social problems because this eroded their electoral base; the Communist vote is usually a protest vote, and the traditional Communist motto remains, "The worse things get, the better for us."

Neither the oligarchs nor the Communists want transparent, democratic political and economic processes in Ukraine. No wonder the government, which operated under these principles, won a non-confidence verdict from the Communist-oligarchic alliance.

Our government fell not because it couldn't solve problems, not because it didn't enjoy popular support, not because it caused confrontations. That's why I'd suggest that the current situation in Ukraine cannot be called a government crisis. Rather, it is a systemic crisis of the power structure. Without a reorganization of Ukraine's institutions of power, effecting further reform is impossible.

That's why appointing a new government is not enough to solve the crisis. For the non-confidence vote also has exposed the crisis within Ukraine's parliamentary majority. Formulas that once cemented the majority of votes in parliament have disappeared. As a rule, short-term alliances made among unlikely ideological combinations are making it impossible to offer a single idea that would be supported by a majority of deputies. As a result, our current parliament no longer meets the needs of Ukraine's democratic development. Parliament has demonstrated that it is beholden to clannish and oligarchic interests, unable to be guided by the national priorities.

Thus preparations for the next parliamentary elections, set for March, 2002, become the paramount issue. Now is the time to begin doing everything possible to elect a Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council) that would be able to rally the people around the main idea: formation of a sufficiently large reformist bloc. This now is my main goal.

We need a broad democratic alliance, one that would not dwell on confrontation, but emphasize constructive activities; one that would aim its efforts not against individuals, but rather promote new ideas with new people, able to build a new Ukraine — one in which such declared principles as the rule of law and human rights would become the reality.

Such a political alliance, armed with an effective program of reforms, able to institute a new style of governance and launch a new era in Ukrainian politics, must win the next parliamentary elections. Ordinary people are beginning to realize that they can and should influence political processes, that political activity can solve problems and achieve desired goals when it pays attention to public opinion; that open political contests can bring forth leaders able to serve various social groups.

In this respect, the experience of leading Western countries is invaluable for the young Ukrainian state. Today, more than ever, Ukraine needs assistance from countries that passed this stage of development a long time ago. Canada strikes us as a paragon. If we can understand the principles operating in Western democracies such as Canada, it can only help us build a democratic, market-oriented, independent Ukraine.

There can be no thought of any reduction or cooling in Ukrainian-Canadian relations because of some perceived change in Ukraine's orientation. On the contrary, our co-operative programs should grow in order to adapt the Canadian experience to Ukrainian realities. For Ukraine, Canada's assistance is especially effective and valuable in the development of medium and small business, in farming, in the area of media policy and the protection of cultural sovereignty, in environmental safety.

We remember well that almost 10 years ago, Canada was the first Western nation to offer diplomatic recognition of Ukraine's independence. And it is Canada's support that helps Ukraine to pursue its interests in G-7 and NATO. We greatly appreciate Canada's technical assistance (among the highest from Western nations). We were delighted when Canadian antidumping authorities recognized the market-economy status of Ukraine's metallurgy sector. During my government's tenure, our bilateral trade doubled.

The 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence coincides this year with the 10th anniversary of Ukrainian-Canadian diplomatic relations. I do hope that the level of Canadian involvement will not change as the result of recent events in Ukraine. We are friends and we should remain friends. Ukraine has a great future. I am certain Canada will play a major role.

Liberal MPs are linked only by controversy

By Peter Worthington, *Toronto Sun, May 17, 2001*

It's unfortunate two Liberal MPs have been linked in controversy when, in fact, one is beyond redemption and the other unfairly accused.

I refer to Tom Wappel, MP for Scarborough Southwest since 1988, and Andrew Telegdi, MP for Kitchener-Waterloo since 1993. Wappel is, by many accounts, something of a jerk — even before his terse refusal to help a blind World War II constituent, Jim Baxter, with his wartime pension concerns because Baxter voted for someone else in the last election.

As for Telegdi, his opposition to possible deportation of Ukrainian-born Helmut Oberlander and Wasyl Odynsky without any right of appeal, resulted in his being quoted in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record as saying Canada was similar to Nazi Germany. Outrage flared like a prairie fire, with Hungarian-born Telegdi's explanations scarce heard amid the uproar.

I've little to add to the Wappel case, which everyone rightly condemns, except to note how unconcerned the PM seems about it. Although Wappel's so-called letter of apology was anything but, the PM said it closed the matter. Chretien's attitude is as disgraceful as Wappel's.

As for Telegdi, a week before the K-W Record report appeared, I quoted Telegdi's concern about the Oberlander and Odynsky cases. Revoking citizenship without appeal caused Telegdi to resign as parliamentary secretary to Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan. She has the power to deport the two who, as teenagers in Nazi-occupied Ukraine, were compelled to join Nazi auxiliaries. (I erroneously reported Telegdi's father had endured Soviet and Nazi camps, when in fact he hadn't — but had survived Nazi and Soviet oppression.)

What Telegdi makes abundantly clear is that denying an individual the right to appeal the Immigration minister's revocation of citizenship and deportation order, is disquietingly similar to what Nazis did to Jews in Germany en route to the Holocaust. Telegdi does not, and never has, compared Canada to Nazi Germany. But he does say the right to appeal loss of citizenship

Ukrainian students demonstrate for a "European Ukraine"

By Kyrylo Horiszny, *President, Ukrainian Student Union of France*

About 90 demonstrators from the Ukrainian Student Union of France and their German counterparts, gathered before the door to the Council of Europe to plead the cause of a "European Ukraine", April 23.

"By taking this action," said Volodymyr Poselsky, one of the spokesmen of the demonstration, "we are acting on the hope that today, a real possibility exists to change the situation and put Ukraine back on the track of democratic development, just like most of the other states of the former communist bloc (from Poland to Serbia). Two conditions are necessary for this to take place: the first and essential condition is internal in nature: democratic and pro-European forces of Ukraine should organize and form a unified democratic coalition."

"The second condition is external in nature: Europe, its institutions and its national governments should give stronger support to the Ukrainian democratic opposition. This is the principal message that we wish to spread with our action. In this respect, we consider that excluding Ukraine from the Council of Europe is not a pertinent answer to the Ukrainian issue, because it does not distinguish the current government from Ukrainian civil society that is being born."

Most of the students arrived from Paris and Reims by bus just a few hours before the demonstration began and were joined by other groups from Metz, Strasbourg, Fribourg, Munich and Belgium. Ukrainian flags and signs sprang up before the CE, while slogans were shouted in unison. "For a European Ukraine!" chanted the students and their elders, while more explicit large bilingual streamers were held up for the curious onlookers. "A democratic Ukraine happens through Europe" or "Tarasiuk, Yushchenko, Holovaty – European Ukraine".

Ukrainian students from France, Germany and Belgium in front of the European Council building in Strasbourg.

Serhiy Holovaty, who was present at the demonstration, made his way through the crowd to salute their action before going to the Parliamentary Assembly. A staunch pro-European, the former minister of justice and the current liberal deputy in the Ukrainian Parliament was one of the most important people behind Ukraine's joining the CE. Enthused by this demonstration, he deplored the escalation of the dispute and its origin. "This is the first time that I see this many Ukrainian flags before the Council of Europe", he remarked a trifle bitterly.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister, Anatoliy Zlenko, also brought his greetings to the demonstrators. At the head of the Ukrainian delegation in Strasbourg, the former Ukrainian ambassador in France told the crowd: "You are right in giving your support for an independent Ukraine", to which the demonstrators added "independant — and democratic!"

A delegation, comprising of Poselsky and of the presidents of the two respective student associations, Stefan Mironjuk (for Germany) and Cyril Horiszny (for France) presented their requests to the General Secretary of the Council of Europe, Walter Schwimmer of Austria. He said he felt "sensitive to the actions made by a rising generation, and to its message for the democracy".

Three days later the council postponed its proposed expulsion of Ukraine giving the country two more months to make "substantial progress" to meeting the CE's standards of democracy and human rights (See Ukrainian News, May 2-15, 2001),

Schwimmer said that, "the serious warning" given earlier by the Assembly was not without effect, because the Ukrainian ministers felt it necessary to come to Strasbourg to plead their country's case.

"We wish that the Ukrainians remain in the European family, which is for us a challenge," said Schwimmer.

PACE reporter says Ukraine issue postponed

(Eastern Economist)—Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe reporter Hanne Severinsen confirmed on May 23 that the issue of Ukraine's fulfilling its duties and obligations it assumed when joining PACE, was postponed until the PACE September session.

According to Severinsen, the main reason for the postponement is absence of the Monitoring Committee's report on Ukraine. She also said that the Monitoring Committee must first consider reports on three other countries. She said the Ukrainian issue could be discussed in June if PACE felt that it would be necessary and made a recommendation to that effect at the Monitoring Committee session scheduled for June 8 in Paris.

Severinsen emphasized that the Monitoring Committee has already turned to both the Verkhovna Rada and the Ukrainian president asking for progress reports on implementing the decision approved at the previous session on April 26. Severinsen said she hopes Ukraine had enough time to meet its obligations by September.

Meanwhile, Borys Oliynyk, head of the Ukrainian Parliamentary delegation to PACE did not acknowledge that the discussion of Ukrainian question at the PACE session was put off until September 2001. He emphasized that it would be premature to speak of a postponement, until after the Monitoring Committee session meets.

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Liberal MPs are linked only by controversy

is something the Nazis denied to Jews.

"I make no judgment of the facts presented in the cases of Oberlander or Odynsky," says Telegdi. "Nor do I dispute what the judge found. What I'm upset at is the process — a process that denies a citizen the right of appeal before losing citizenship or being deported. Even B'nai B'rith supports an appeal process."

Before the last election — called prematurely and unnecessarily by the PM — a motion was before Parliament to have an appeal process for deportation cases like Odynsky's and Oberlander's. Odynsky's case especially is a travesty since evidence showed he was a perimeter guard with no direct dealings with prisoners. Even opposition MPs understand Telegdi's concerns.

The whole issue of deporting people who were forced to work for the Nazis as youths in occupied Ukraine and elsewhere, and who don't fit the category of war criminals, is harder and harder to defend 56 years after the end of World War II.

Real war criminals are now mostly dead, or saved by time and age — something Israel seems to accept in certain cases, such as that of Solomon Morel, a Polish Jew who commanded a camp in Poland (Swietochlowice) for German prisoners from February to November in 1945. It is alleged that Morel personally beat, tortured and killed 1,538 inmates who had no links to Nazi crimes or atrocities. After the war, Morel supervised various labour camps as an officer of Poland's Internal Security. Questions abound about him.

Morel's case erupted in 1992 when Israel refused to extradite him to Poland to stand trial for war crimes, on grounds the statute of limitations had run out. One doesn't need much imagination to see how that decision would incense Canada's Ukrainian community.

Morel's is a fascinating but little-known case — first aired in 1993 on CBS' 60 Minutes. Apparently, Morel's family was liquidated by Nazis. How he, a Jew, not only survived the Nazi occupation of Poland but its liquidation policy is uncertain. His case is explored in a book by journalist/author John Sack <dearjohn@johnsack.com> (An Eye for an Eye — Basic books), himself a Jew, who told 60 Minutes that Morel "wanted to do to the Germans what they did to him," and didn't distinguish between men, women, children, or even Poles.

It makes one wonder at the apparent vendetta against the likes of Odynsky and Oberlander.

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HELP US SEND AN ORPHAN TO CAMP

This summer *Help Us Help the Children,* a project of Children Of Chornobyl Canadian Fund, will hold its sixth annual summer camp for orphans in Ukraine. Over 425 children, aged 12-18, from orphanages throughout Ukraine, will participate in the ***Help Us Help The Children*** Summer Camp 2001 - "Children for Children". Once again, the camp will be held in the town of Vorokhta, in the Carpathian Mountains. The program is designed to raise the children's awareness of the power they hold in shaping their lives. They will take part in workshops intended to develop their self-confidence, independence, team-work and self-esteem. ***Help Us Help The Children's*** North American and Ukrainian volunteers will continue to instill in the children an understanding of Ukraine's history and culture and to cultivate a sense of belonging and pride in their country.

Once again, we appeal to you to assist ***Help Us Help the Children*** and sponsor an orphan to Summer Camp 2001. It costs $160.00 for one child to attend camp. This includes their transportation to camp, accommodation, three meals a day, new shoes, socks, a hat, T-shirts, pants, towels, and hygiene items such as toothpaste and shampoo. With a minimum donation of $50.00 you will receive a picture of the child you helped sponsor and a thank-you letter from the child as well as a tax receipt. Please help us in creating an unforgettable two weeks for an orphan in Ukraine this summer!

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SEND AN ORPHAN TO CAMP:

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Свічка за душі жертв Чорнобиля – у 15–ліття катастрофи

Юлія Войчишин

У цю трагічну річницю 26–го квітня в Оттаві, так як і в багатьох інших містах Канади, молилися за жертви Чорнобиля з свічками, що їх виготовила Централя Канадського Фонду Дітям Чорнобиля і розіслала по своїх відділах.

У зворушливому екуменічному молебені в українському католицькому Соборі Св. Івана Хрестителя, що його під проводом о. пароха Кирила Микитюка сослужили о. Микола Чурак, парох українського православного Собору Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці, о. Максим Лисак, парох Православної Церкви Христа Спасителя та о. д–р Андрій Чировський і о. д–р Андрій Онуферко з Інституту Митрополита Шептицького, участь брали дипломати з родинами Посольства і Консуляту України в Канаді з амбасадором Юрієм Щербаком і дружиною Марією, молодь і провід Пластової станиці, українська оттавська громада та гості, між якими був також і президент Централі Конґресу Українців Канади Євген Чолій з Монреалю.

Молебень за терплящих наслідки чорнобильської аварії включає молитви за жертви Чорнобиля, за всіх що загубили рідних та близьких, за упокій душ невинних жертв, також за тих, що працювали і занедужали там і щоб Бог допоміг очистити заражені радіяцією землі, рослини і тварини. Окрему, ним написану, молитву виголосив амбасадор України д–р Юрій Щербак, уривки з якої цитуємо:

Всемогутній Господи Боже, Спасителю наш, Ти зібрав нас сьогодні увечері, щоб нагадати нам про ядерну катастрофу, яка сталася на моїй Батьківщині – Україні … Наша перша молитва – за душі невинних жертв Чорнобиля. Дай Царство Небесне тим, що відійшли від нас у вічність – тим хто спізнав хвилини розпуки і зневіри, жаху за своє життя і життя своїх дітей.

Прости тим, хто не відав, що коїть, граючись з ядерною силою. Нагороди небесною благодаттю тих мужніх чоловіків і жінок, які боролися з демонами Чорнобиля, які захистили Україну та Європу від радіоактивного вогню. Дай силу знесиленим, дай надію знедоленим. Дай мудрість і прозріння нашому народу.

Христос, показав нам, як вірою можна смерть подолати. Він вселив надію в наші серця, воскресши з мертвих. … Христе Боже, врятуй Україну і всіх людей у світі від радіяції, від хвороб і безпам'ятства, від зневіри й апатії, від вогню і страху. Дай нам силу і віру, щоб подолати все лихе, що приніс нам Чорнобиль.

До пластунів окреме слово виголосив пл. сен. о. д–р Андрій Онуферко. Він сказав, що Бог створивши світ передав його нам людям щоб ми опікувалися ним. І «…коли ми, пластуни, кажемо, що: Пластун любить природу, це саме в такому розумінні нашої відповідальности, за світ і за все, що живе в ньому». Що сталося в Чорнобилі, сталося саме через безвідповідальність деяких людей і тодішньої влади. Потерпіли люди, які або намагалися погасити вогонь, або ті які довідалися запізно про радіоактивність, що розійшлася по Україні і в сусідніх державах. «Наслідки затроєння землі, води і природи триватимуть і по нашій смерті». Отець Андрій попросив усіх ще раз засвітити чорнбильську свічку і пояснив значення її.

«Ця свічка символізує нашу молитву за тих, які згинули. …Ця свічка символізує світло добрих діл – наше бажання допомагати тим, які потерпіли, а також нашу постанову шанувати цей чудовий світ, який є даром Божим. Візьмім цю свічку додому і час від часу запалім її, щоб вона була для нас пригадкою … що кожне життя є дорогоцінним даром, що те, що ми робимо впливає на життя інших, і що цей світ не є насправді наш, а Божий – Він нам його тільки позичає, а ми … мусимо за нього дати звіт». Ці істини западали глибоко в душі всіх присутніх, що з запаленими свічками ревно молилися за жертви Чорнобиля та за нашу знедолену Батьківщину Україну.

Міністер Багатокультурности Hedy Fry у привітальному листі до учасників молебня сказала: *As we pause to mourn those whose lives were lost as a result of the disaster 15 years ago, we also mourn the loss of humanity signified by the events surrounding it. We contemplate the suffering that continues. We pray for an end to suffering and an end to the inhumanity of humankind.*

У канадському парляменті 26 квітня член парляменту, ліберал Dan McTeaque з округу Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge, у своїому виступі з нагоди 15–ої річниці Чорнобиля сказав: *This is a day to remember the horror unleashed on the people of Chernobyl and the valiant efforts of the radiation containment crews, many paying with their lives in the fight to save others. … Fifteen years later people are still suffering from diseases caused by radiation. The impact of the disaster was felt not only in Ukraine alone…* З дальшого тексту його виступу видно, що до нього звернулися білоруси в його окрузі, бо він складає їм признання за допомогу потерпілим в їхній батьківщині. Мабуть це добрий приклад до наслідування і українцям що треба використовувати право на підтримку від члена парляменту з їхньої округи.

Чи перенесуть останки Коновальця?

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Питання про перенесення на Батьківщину останків борця за незалежність України Євгена Коновальця залишається відкритим. Заступник Львівської обласної адміністрації Володимир Герич повідомив журналістам, що поки що проблема «перепоховання праху Є. Коновальця на батьківщині остаточно не вирішена». Він наголосив, що сумнівається у доцільності того, щоб прах такої «масштабної фігури» як Є. Коновалець було перенесено в його рідне село Зашків Жовківського району, як про це колись просила районна адміністрація. На думку В. Герича, через певний час останки таких борців за незалежність України як Євген Коновалець, Симон Петлюра і Степан Бандера, які поховані за кордоном, можна буде перепоховати в Пантеоні Слави, який має відкритися у Києві цього року.

В неділю 6–го травня учасники Великої Ради УПС відвідали українську католицьку церкву Різдва Пресвятої Богородиці в Ніяґара Фаллс.

Відбулася Велика Рада Уладу Пластового Сеньйорату

Юлія Войчишин

В днях 5 і 6 травня ц.р. відбулася в Ніяґара Фаллс в Канаді в Park Plaza Hotel International 15–та Велика Рада Уладу Пластового Сеньйорату, на яку з'їхалися 104 члени–делегати з різних країн діяспори та з України як і багато гостей. Для необзнайомлених уважаю за відповідне пояснити що Улад Пластового Сеньйорату – це четвертий улад в системі Пласту, після Уладу Пластового Новацтва, Уладу Пластового Юнацтва і Уладу Старших Пластунів. Такі Ради відбуваються що чотири роки, від заснування уладу в 1930–му році (з малими перервами через війну та заборону Пласту) аж до сьогодні і Улад у 2000 році відзначив своє 70–ліття.

Церемоніял відкриття 15–ої Великої Ради перевела в суботу 5–го травня в 11–ій годині ранку Головна Булавна УПС пл. сен. Христя Ковч. Голова Головної Пластової Булави пл. сен. Ярослава Рубель привітала учасників і побажала успіху. Начальний пластун Любомир Романків вручив відзначення наступним:

Найвище відзначення за громадську працю «Вічний Вогонь в Золоті» одержали: пл. сен. Соня Скрипник з Едмонтону і пл. сен. Оксана Бережницька, з куреня «Буриверхи» з Бафало. За визначну пластову діяльність «Орден Св. Юрія в Золоті» одержали: пл. сен. Люба Крупа з куреня «Перші стежі» з Морістовн Ню Джерзі та пл. сен. Людмила Дармограй з куреня «Ті, що греблі рвуть» з Седл Ривер. Також за працю в Пласті «Орден Св. Юрія в Сріблі» одержав пл. сен. Ігор Король з куреня «Бурлаки» з Дітройту.

До Президії Ради вибрано – пл. сен. Мирона Баб'юка – предсідником і пол. сен. Юлію Войчишин та пл. сен. Валю Марченко – писарями.

На пленарній сесії Ради УПС головну доповідь «70 років Українського Пластового Сеньйорату» виголосила мабуть найбільше заслужена пластунка в світі, журналістка «Свободи», автор недавно виданої книги, член славного куреня «Ті що греблі рвуть», пл. сен. кер. Ольга Кузьмович. Її представила пл. сен. Ірена Вжесневська як «людину з залізною волею та багатогранністю творчих ідей».

Подруга Олька, (як ми її всі «величаєм»!), дорікнула нам, що за «безконечними ювілеями», ми забули гідно відзначити наш власний ювілей – сімдесятліття сеньйорату, та подала стислу історію уладу з аналітичними завважами про розвиток його. В 1930 році польський уряд розв'язав Пласт в західній Україні і Пласт перейшов у підпілля. 12–го квітня цього ж року був заснований пластовий сеньйорат, що гуртував в Пласті вихованих дорослих людей. 15–го квітня 1930 року створився 1–ий Курінь Тисовського, започаткувавши традицію матірних куренів, яких сьогодні начисляємо 42 і які гуртують людей за їхніми зацікавленнями. В тайному Пласті 1930–их років були активні Дрот–Тисовський і Сірий Лев–Левицький. Організуються табори для дітей і молоді та видається журнал «Вогні». Прихід совєтів у 1939 році, а тоді німців, започатковує Другу світову війну, в якій Пласт поносить великі, необчислені дотепер, жертви в УПА, в Дивізії, про що майже не згадується в анналах історії. Навіть Шухевича рідко згадується як пластуна.

«Великий ісход», закінчення війни, відновлення Пласту в ДіПі таборах в Німеччині та Австрії в 1946 році та великий ріст і розвиток його. Сеньйорат видає журнал пластової думки «Пластовий шлях» де дискутується про завдання і цілі сеньйорату.

Виїзд за океан поставив перед сеньйорами специфічні завдання. На нових землях поселення вони засновували станції і школи та вели виховну працю. Виростають і зміняються покоління сеньйорів (це вже четверте!), і в дискусіях на Конґресах проявляється різниця в думках, а гасло «Не ти, не я, а ми» часто тратить свою привабливість, бо домінує «Я», з жалем констатує подруга Олька. А вона ж знає!!!

Заокруглюючи сказане, доповідач подала загальне число сеньйорату у світі – 2,135, з того за океаном 2000, в Україні 92, а решта в інших країнах. Її турбує питання «Чи зуміли ми перещіпити Пластову ідею в Україну?». В Україні є тепер 12 тисяч пластунів, з того сеньйорів тільки чотири в Проводі. Чи буде продовжуватися там легендарна «Пластова гра» чи треба поміняти гру, запитує вона.

Після обіду відбулася цікава дискусійна лава на тему «Візія Сеньйорату», модератором якої була пл. сен. Таїса Ружицька. Дискутанти: пл. сен. Роман Завадович – «Завдання сеньйорів», пл. сен. Володимир Дашко – «Старші пластуни – Сеньйори – Один Улад?», пл. сен. Ксеня Скрипник–Бубель – «Многогранність сеньйорів – різні види дій» (доповідь відчитала пл. сен. Софія Скрипник).

На жаль, дискусійна лава не могла скластися в призначений час, дискусія не закінчилася і на висновки та рекомендації не стало часу.

Резолюційна комісія під проводом пл. сен. Ореста Джулинського представила ряд пропозицій резолюцій, з яких прийняті такі:

Велика Рада привітала ієрархів і духовенство українських церков, члена куреня «Червона калина» Блаженнішого Патріярха Любомира Гузара, Начального Пластуна і Провід Пласту і віддала шану всім сеньйорам у 70–у річницю їхнього уладу.

Велика Рада доручила Головному Проводові разом з матірними куренями виготовити списки усіх діючих куренів, описи їхніх обрадів і традицій для поширення їх в Україні.

З семи рекомендацій внутрішнього характеру, заслуговує на особливе відмічення пропозиція Проводові УПС включитися в акцію перепоховання основоположника Пласту пл. сен. д–ра Олександра Тисовського–Дрота з Відня до Львова. Перший Курінь ім. О. і С. Тисовських довгі роки опікувався могилою на Central Fridhof у Відні і перші пропозиції про перепоховання вийшли від них.

На пропозицію голови Номінаційної комісії пл. сен. Володимири Прокопець, вибрано таку Головну Булаву УПС: пл. сен. Христя Ковч, Головна Булавна УПС; пл. сен. Олесь Марченко, Заступник і Референт Куренів УПС; пл. сен. Слава Мисаковець, Писар; пл. сен. Уляна Баб'юк, Діловод фінансів; пл. сен. Оля Ткачук, Діловод відзначень; пл. сен. Роман Барановський, Редактор «Сеньйорського Слова»; пл. сен. Таїса Ружицька, член; пл. сен. Юрій Сеньків, член.

Пізніше вечором, на бенкеті Начальний Пластун Любомир Романків прийняв присягу Головної Булави УПС та виголосив доповідь до членства. Молитву до вечері перевів о. Віктор Назарчик, парох церкви Різдва Пресвятої Богородиці в Ніяґара Фаллс. Програмою керував пл. сен. Олесь Криськів з України. Був присутній також і пл. сен. Олесь П'ясецький, голова Сеньйорату з України. У веселій частині виступили – пл. сен. Орест Гаврилюк, Іван Франів і Христя Сохоцька. Пластовий гумор і пісня лунали… Було родинно, приємно і теплі почування передавалися від одних до других. На кінець, довкола круглих столів побравшися навхрест руками, з притемненим світлом і свічками всі заспівали «Ніч вже йде…». Прощалися щоб знов зустрітися.

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Left to Right: Dave Broda, Ken Kowalski, Mary Anne Jablonski, Ray Danyluk, Thomas Lukaszuk, Gene Zwozdesky, Ed Stelmach, Gary Masyk, Julius Yankowsky.

UCC, CPC host Alberta MLA's

(UkrNews)—Nine Alberta MLA's of Ukrainian and/or Polish origin attended a reception to meet with representatives of their respective communities at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre in Edmonton, May 22.

The reception was jointly organized by the Alberta Provincial Councils of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canadian Polish Congress.

"As the provincial representative bodies of our respective communities, we are the liaison between the Alberta government and the community. We encourage you to work with us, listen to our concerns and most importantly, support our needs. Lets work together!" said Dave Sereda, president of Alberta UCC.

"The last time we had such a large representation in Caucus was in the 1970's. I believe there were 13 MLA's of Ukrainian descent. Programs initiated include: the Ukrainian Bilingual Program, the Ukrainian Cultural and Heritage Village, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, support for museums, Seniors programs and other help assisting settlement of Ukrainian and Polish communities.

"Now with 12 members with Ukrainian/Polish connection, and by working together, we can effectively succeed in guiding the government of Alberta to undertake programs that will benefit our communities and Albertans at large," he added.

Attending the reception were Ukrainian-origin MLA's: Ed Stelmach, Minster of Transportation (PC, Vegreville-Viking); Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development (PC, Edmonton-Mill Creek); Dave Broda, Chair of the Alberta-Ukraine Advisory Council (PC, Redwater); Ray Danyluk (PC, Lac La Biche-St. Paul); Gary Masyk (PC, Edmonton-Norwood); Julius Yankowsky (PC, Edmonton-Beverly Clareview); Polish origin MLA's: Mary Anne Jablonski (Red Deer North), Thomas Lukaszuk (Edmonton-Castledowns) and Polish/Ukrainian-origin MLA Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislature.

Missing were: Senior's Minister Stan Woloshyn (PC, Stony Plain), Mark Hlady (PC, Calgary-Mountain) and Harvey Cenaiko (PC, Calgary-Buffalo).

Zwozdesky, who was instrumental in gathering the MLA's joked that "we feel kind of like the 12 Apostles."

"If you think that we can do a lot as the Ukrainian community, or as the Polish community, think what we can do together," he added.

Jarek Nowinka, Alberta President for the CPC welcomed the cooperation between the two communities and drew attention to the International Convention for democratic Youth Forum which will be held in Edmonton in 2003.

This forum will be of special interest to both the Ukrainian and Polish communities since their mother countries just recently got rid of Communism, Nowinka added.

Newsbriefs

Smirnov backtracks on Gongadze

(RFE/RL)—Interior Minister Yuri Smirnov told the parliament on May 25 that his previous statement on the successful outcome of the investigation into the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze was "premature," Interfax reported. Prosecutor-General Mykhaylo Potebenko also told the parliament he has "no grounds to state that the killing of Heorhiy Gongadze has been solved." May 15 Smirnov claimed that Gongadze was killed by two criminals who in turn were later murdered.

D & D prompts extortion attempt

(Metro)—Two men have pleaded guilty to extortion after attempting to scam $250,000.00 out of a Kitchener lottery winner. They told Maria Posteuca they would spread rumours she lied on her application for Canadian Citizenship unless she agreed to give them the money. Christine Stanciu, 40, and Adrian Calin, 34, will be sentenced Aug. 3.

Canada opens notary project

(Eastern Economist)—Canadian Ambassador Derek Fraser on May 17 announced the opening of a three-year Canadian-Ukrainian project which will continue work on supporting reforms in the notary profession in Ukraine. The C$1.3 million project is financed by the Canadian Agency for International Development. An effectively operating notary system is a necessary component of legal system of any country and is a decisive factor for the effective activity of a market economy, said Fraser.

Rada again rejects impeachment debate

(Eastern Economist)—For the second time, the Verkhovna Rada declined a bill by Anti-crime Committee Chair Hryhory Omelchenko on including impeachment of the president into the its agenda, May 24. Pro-presidential factions in the Rada refused to vote for the bill stating that there was neither any reason to dismiss Kuchma, nor the proper legislation for doing so.

Last strategic bomber destroyed

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine on May 17 cut into pieces its last long-range TU-95MS bomber, which was capable of being fitted with a nuclear weapon, Interfax reported. In this way Kyiv completed the dismantling of 38 strategic bombers inherited from the former USSR. The U.S. has been assisting Ukraine financially and technically in liquidating nuclear-capable aircraft and missiles under the U.S.-Ukrainian Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. The agency reported that as of April 30, the U.S. has spent $7.7 million for this purpose.

Peace Shield preparations begin

(Eastern Economist)—The final conference on preparations for the Peace Shield — 2001 military training have begun in Yavoriv, Lviv oblast, attracting representatives of 16 countries, including Ukraine, US, Canada, and various West European and Asian countries was held May 21. Participants have defined the schedule of operations, in which over 900 troops will take part. Peace Shield — 2001 will be held July 15-30 and is meant to train units in effective peacemaking activities.

Petliura made honourary Rivne citizen

(Eastern Economist)—Symon Petliura, the military leader of the independence movement in Ukraine during the 1917-1921 war for independence, was made an honorary citizen of of Rivne which was the headquarters of his army 75 years ago. In remembrance of that historical fact, the Rivne oblast branch of Rukh decided to unveil the first monument to Petliura and to name a street and a park after him.

Internment memorial to be unveiled at Spirit Lake

(UCCLA)—During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans were needlessly imprisoned as "enemy aliens" in 24 concentration camps and forced to do heavy labour, suffering the confiscation of their wealth, disenfranchisement and other state-sanctioned censures.

Since 1994, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) has placed 18 trilingual plaques and 2 statues across Canada recalling this unhappy episode in Canadian history.

On June 16 a third statue, by Kingston sculptor John Boxtel, titled Interned Madonna, will be unveiled at the site of the Spirit Lake internment camp, near Amos, PQ. The statue depicts a Ukrainian woman internee with two of her children, a swaddled infant boy and a young girl clinging to her mother's dress.

Spirit Lake, along with the camp in Vernon, BC, was one of the two places where women and children were confined along with their menfolk. Two of the last known survivors, both supporters of UCCLA's campaign to secure an acknowledgment of this injustice and a restitution of the internees' confiscated wealth, Canadian born women, were just children when they, along with their parents, were transported into the Quebec wilderness and interned at Spirit Lake.

Commenting on the statue's unveiling, Dr Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for UCCLA, said:"This statue represents a powerful reminder of the tragedy that befell these innocent women and children and their menfolk, interned not because of anything they did but only because of where they came from. John Boxtel's statue portrays a young mother who is caring for and protecting her children as best she can in the circumstances. Yet while she is defiant she is also troubled at what is being done to her family. By placing this statue here, to complement the plaque UCCLA unveiled on 4 August 1999, we have completed our work here. We now anticipate that the Spirit Lake Camp Committee, a local group intent on developing a Spirit Lake internment camp interpretive centre, will ensure that the historical experience of all of the people brought here against their will is recalled. And we hope that Mr Inky Mark's proposed legislation, Bill C 331, The Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, will be given further impetus in the House of Commons by our ongoing efforts to remind all Canadians of an episode in our nation's history that some have tried to bury."

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Микола Воротиленко очолив Едмонтонський відділ КУК

П. Саварин

Може десь в Канаді хтось з новоприбулих українців вже й очолює КУК, але в Едмонтоні до 21 квітня ц.р. ще такого не було. Того дня, на загальних зборах в залі катедри св. Івана, присутні головою вибрали українця з четвертої хвилі українських імігрантів (прибув три роки тому з дружиною і трьома дітьми) Миколу Воротиленка, дотеперішнього представника від УНО. Заступниками вибрано Володимира Марича, Любу Бойко–Белл і Любу Федущак, секретарями остались Дмитро Петрів (рекордовим) і Маркіян Ковалюк (кореспонденційним), а Іван Максимів остався скарбником. До управи ввійшов теж Степан Романюк, як попередній голова, а Євген Горнофлюк, Олександра Цибульська й Оксана Хом'як–Енслен були вибрані до контрольної комісії. Від номінаційної комісії, в складі: Люба Федущак, Оля Саварин, Володимир Марич і Євген Горнофлюк, із поп. головою Степаном Романюком, звітував Володимир Марич.

Відкриваючи збори, Степан Романюк попросив присутніх (було 24 особи) однохвилинною мовчанкою вшанувати померших членів Відділу, а тоді запропонував порядок нарад. Ведучим присутні вибрали Петра Саварина, а секретарем Дмитра Петріва. Вони й керували зборами, згідно з нормальним порядком нарад: відчитання і схвалення протоколу із попередніх загальних зборів, звіти членів управи, дискусія над звітами, уділення абсолюторії, і т. д., аж до вибору нової управи. Зі звіту членів управи, присутні пригадали собі, що робив Відділ КУК, яка активна була українська едмонтонська спільнота в минулому році, а зокрема – скільки разів приходилось голові та членам управи ходити на різні наради, «річчя», концерти, імпрези, зустрічі. Згадати б хоча Шевченківський концерт, річницю незалежности України і голодомору (які організував КУК), а крім них: 50–річчя ОУК, 25–річчя ПР КУК, 25–річчя двомовних шкіл, 25–річчя ССУК, зустріч із Амбасадором Канади в Україні Д. Фрейзером, Амбасадором України в Канаді д–ром Ю. Щербаком та Іваном Драчем, і т. д.

Перший ряд зліва на право: І. Максимів, скарбник; С. Романюк, бувший голова; Л. Бойко Белл, заступниця голови; М. Воротиленко, голова; Л. Федущак, заступниця голови і голова Добродійного товариства; В. Марич, заступник голови. В другому ряді за п. Воротиленком стоїть Д. Петрів, секретар; третій зліва стоїть М. Ковалюк, кореспонденційний секретар.

Після зборів Відділу і перекуски, відбулися ще й загальні збори «Добродійного товариства» Відділу, яке на пропозицію згаданої номінаційної комісії, на зміну уступаючого голови Стаха Кобилко, очолила Люба Федущак. До дирекції цього товариства були вибрані: на 3 роки – Л. Федущак, М. Воротиленко і М. Ковалюк, на 2 роки – С. Романюк, Д. Петрів і С. Кобилко, на 1 рік – В. Марич, С. Коваль та І. Максимів. Скарбник, секретарі і контрольна комісія Добродійного товариства ті самі що у Відділі. Фінансовий стан Відділу та Добродійного товариства ледви чи може бути кращий, що дасть змогу Відділові не менш активно працювати і цього року, коли відділ 19 серпня відзначатиме в Парку Гаврелюка 10–річчя незалежної держави України.

До речі, представники від різних організацій (13) з нагоди 60–річчя КУК дали Відділові повний «вотум довір'я» на майбутнє і побажали ще кращих успіхів. А що українська спільнота Альберти, як згадав ведучий Петро Саварин, під час останніх 60 років «не спала», свідчать: двомовні школи, Канадський інститут українських студій, Село спадщини української культури, Катедра фольклору ім. Гуцуляків, українська мова й історія України на Альбертському університеті, екомузей «Калиновий край» і 10 послів чи міністрів українського роду в альбертському Парляменті.

Вечір Відзначення в Оттаві за Добровільну Працю для КУК

Організація Об'єднаних Націй проголосила 2001 рік Міжнародним Роком Добровольців.

Цього року Конгрес Українців Канади відзначає 60 років своєї праці. З цієї нагоди управа КУК вирішила видати грамоти добровольцям, членам відділів за їх жертвенний вклад праці в розбудову культурно–релігійного і суспільно–громадського життя.

До Оттави на цей вечір відзначення 26 квітня ц.р., приув голова Централі КУК адвокат Евген Чолій. На залі офіційно вітала його і представляла голова місцевого відділу КУК мгр. Марта Виницька.

Опісля п. Чолій доволі докладно розповів про працю Централі КУК. Згадав візію з початкових років, а тепер треба вирішувати, що ми передбачаємо на майбутнє. Такі дискусійні темибудуть на черговому Конгресі 5–8 жовтня ц.р.

На даний час, в програмі роботи КУК є висловлювати свої думки про питання денатуралізації і депортації, відбирання громадянства, подаватит рекомндації про еміграцію і хорону біженців. Багатодискусій було над всеохоплюючим музеєм геноциду для всіх потерпілих народів. Заплянованно багатокультурну програму на СВС, треба використати мережу для етнічних передач, у тому мати передачі українською мовою. В Оттаві відновилось бюро КУК, але утримання коштує великі гроші. Одначе таке представництво конечне в кругах урядових, парляментарних і зв'язкових, для Централі КУК.

Від квітня 2000 р. зміцнено зв'язки з урядом і Українським Посольством. Приготовляється нове приміщення для бюра КУК і заряд надіється на фінансову допомогу суспільства, як також на успішне переведення кампанії «Клюб 60», тобто ювілейний дар 60–ліття праці КУК.

Партнерство України і Канади, на це були зроблені всі можливі зустрічі на Україні і тут. Вітали міністра Закордонних справ Б. Тарасюка, Віцеміністра М. Жулинського, була зустріч з міністром Закордонних справ А. Зленком. КУК підтримує високі зустрічі з урядом Канади, також у справі партнерства з Україною, до ближчих відносин, щоб Україна не була ізольована. Треба думати за відзначення 10–ої річниці незалежности.

Відтак відбулась роздача грамот відзначення за добровільну працю в програмі Конгресу Українців Канади. Їх дістали слідуючі особи: Ірена Бел, Ольга Генрі, Галина Михальчук, Борис Сірський, Ольга Самець, Володимир Мушка, Теодор Шумовський, д–р Володимир Шелест, Зенон Янковський, Юлія войчишин, д–р Іван Войчишин, мгр. Марта Винницька.

Зліва на право 1–ий ряд: Галина Михальчук, Ольга Генрі, Марта Винницька – голова відділу КУК, Юлія Войчишин. 2–ий ряд: Ольга Самець, Ірена Бел, адв. Євген Чолій – краєвий голова КУК, Теодор Шумовський, д–р Володимир Шелест, д–р Іван Войчишин.

Більше половини остарбайтерів отримають компенсації

(Радіо «Свобода»)-У Києві з візитою перебуває голова правління німецького федерального фонду «Пам'ять, відповідальність і майбутнє» Міхаель Янзен, який заявив, що на нині німецька сторона, нарешті, має правові гарантії, що дозволяють говорити про початок компенсаційних виплат жертвам нацизму зі Східної Європи. За словами Міхаеля Янзена, вже наступного тижня Бундестаг має розглянути та ухвалити рішення про початок надання виплат остарбайтерам. А самі виплати, ймовірно, розпочнуться на початку липня ц.р. Перший транш складає 65 відсотків, а не 35 та 50, як передбачалося раніше, тобто вже ц.р. більше половини остарбайтерів України отримають компенсації.

Чи Ваші діти, чи внуки слідкують за подіями в Україні?

Якщо ні, то:

Купіть їм передплату на «Українські вісті»

«Українські вісті» подають дуже багату інформацію про Україну і про нашу громаду в Канаді. Тому, що ми також друкуємо в англійській мові, нашу газету можуть читати і ті, котрі не читають по–українськи. Тим способом можуть познайомитися із найновішими подіями в Україні. Заповніть, будь ласка, цю форму, а ми вислемо газету разом із повідомленням про подарунок.

Доручаю передплату на _____ примірників. Вишліть, будь ласка, на таку адресу:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ P.Code _____

Це дарунок від: _____

ЦІНИ:

В Канаді: 1 рік (24 примірники): $35.00 (Кан.)
2 роки (48 примірників): $65.00 (Кан.)
(ціна включає ПТО ["GST"])

Поза Канадою: Такі самі ціни, але в американських долярах

Повітряною поштою: Подвійні ціни як «Поза Канадою»

Наша адреса: **Ukrainian News**
Suite 1, 12227 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5M 1Y9
Tel: (780) 488-3693; Fax: (780) 488-3859

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Ihor Zlahoda Trade Counsellor for the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, speaks at the Kyiv Konnection banquet.

UFCE helps raise Ukraine's educational standards, audience told

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) is helping bring Ukraine's educational system up to international standards, said the keynote speaker at the UFCE's annual Kyiv Konnection fundraising banquet in Edmonton, May 17.

"The years of independence are characterized by deep changes in the national system of education. The changes in structure and content of education started as the result of the development of new marketing relations. The labour market demanded new skill standards. Management, marketing, law, financing and computer engineering were among priorities," said Ihor Zlahoda Trade Counsellor for the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, speaking before 350 people at St. Basil's Cultural Centre.

Zlahoda, who appeared in place of Ambassador Yuri Scherbak, who had been called to Kyiv to consult with President Leonid Kuchma (see Ukrainian News, May 3-16, 2001), said that today there are are 313 universities, academies and institutes in Ukraine with more than 1 million students and 54,9% of these get free education.

He also praised the work of the Alberta-Ukraine Advisory Council and noted that there are opportunities for cooperation at inter-regional level.

He noted the governments of Crimea and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast are strongly interested in setting up cooperation with Alberta. "We really hope that the agreements with these two regions could be signed during the visit to Ukraine of Premier Ralph Klein with Team Alberta," he added.

Zlahoda also commended the work of the Energy section of the Intergovernmental Canada-Ukraine Economic Commission and its co-chair Ed Southern, who with representatives of Canadian companies worked out the proposals to the Government of Ukraine in order to improve the existing system of royalties as well as to provide equal conditions for oil and gas extracting companies for the export of their products.

Referring to Canada's "special partnership" with Ukraine, Zlahoda said Kyiv watches the development of relations between Canada and the USA with great interest.

"The beneficial interaction between the two countries enables Canada to co-exist with its big neighbor, and at the same time maintain an independent foreign policy. That could be an important lesson to Ukraine."

He said that the "presence of Canadian advisors in Ukraine, and the numerous exchange visits by Ukrainian students, business people and government delegations to Canada, have only one purpose — to apply the Canadian experience to the Ukrainian realities in building the democratic society, government and infrastructures, especially valuable and effective is the Canadian assistance to Ukraine in the fields of agriculture and farm organizations, information policy, cultural sovereignty, ecology.

"Next in our legislative and intergovernmental projects would be the study by Ukrainian experts of Canada's regional policies; the solving social problems, like unemployment, health care, and education. We could use your expertise in application of computers in schools and libraries.

"The programs already in place should be expanded. Also, during this difficult period for my country, Canada's support in strengthening of democratic principles, free speech and mass media, would be greatly appreciated. We need the Internet, a free exchange of ideas between individuals, at the government level, private sector and non-governmental organizations."

He also noted that for the first time since independence, Ukraine is enjoying economic growth —e GDP grew by more than 6% in 2000-2001, and industrial output by 17%, "making Ukraine the fastest growing economy in the Commonwealth of Independent States."

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director, Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, Grant MacEwan College (GMC), which oversees educational programs benefiting students and young professionals in Ukraine, outlined some of the project the college is involved with in Ukraine.

These include:

• Nursing, where GMC has provided its nurse upgrading program and materials to the 130 nursing schools in Ukraine. With sponsorship from the Ukrainian Women's Association at St. John's Cathedral it has translated over 4000 pages of educational materials, along with video tapes, and made them available in Ukraine:

• Business, where second group of 29 students has graduated from the college's Business Management Diploma program. A third group of students is half way through the program, and advertising has begun for the fourth group starting in September.

• The Projects Mission office in Lviv, which the URDC, along with four other educational partner organizations from across Canada (including the Ukrainian Language Education Centre at the University of Alberta), set up under the sponsorship of the Canada Ukraine Foundation;

• Opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing. The URDC is cooperating with Professor Michael Rodda of the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, in establishing and promoting the work of the Canada Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons in Ukraine.

Greetings were delivered by Steven Kashuba, President of UFCE and Dr. Janet Paterson-Weir, Vice President Academic, Grant MacEwan College.

Dr. Carolyn Yewchuk, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Education, U of A alsospoke.

The annual President's Award was presented to William Dymianiw.

Alberta Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky served as Master of Ceremonies.

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

UFCE President Steven Kashuba presents the President's Award to William Dymianiw.

At the opening of the Centre: Left to Right: Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky. Brian Cherwick.

Canadian Centre for Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography established

(CCUCE)—On May 11 the University of Alberta celebrated the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography (CCUCE) with a reception in the Timms Centre for the Arts.

A large number of guests representing the Ukrainian and academic communities were on hand to take part in the celebration.

Dean of Arts Dr. Kenneth Norrie addressed the guests, outlining the importance of Ukrainian studies at the University of Alberta, and the leading role the new Centre will play.

Dr. Donald Bruce, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies stated that the Centre's work is at the forefront of his Department's program preparing students for cultural literacy.

Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Director of the new Centre, outlined its organization and goals.

The Centre is an umbrella structure uniting the several existing entities for Ukrainian folklore and ethnography in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, including the Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography, the Ukrainian Folklore Archives, and the Kuryliw Family Scholarship Fund. The Centre will consolidate administration, increase visibility, and facilitate research and publication in this field.

The CCUCE will include emphasis on the study of Ukrainian culture in Canada and on those projects which help to bridge contemporary North American social sciences with the established disciplines of folklore and ethnology in Ukraine.

In addition to projects focusing on teaching and research, the Centre is involved in many related activities: Ukrainian and English language publications; development and support of external research projects in Canada and Ukraine; organization of conferences and seminars. Consultation and community outreach are also an important part of the Centre's work.

The consolidation of these various components in Ukrainian ethnography will strengthen the newly formed Centre's position as a leading institution in this field. Ukrainian studies has been recognized by the University of Alberta as one of its areas of excellence, and community support for the work of the Centre is evident in its endowment base, which has a current market value of over $3 million.

St. Thomas More College establishes Ukrainian Studies Teaching Consortium

By Chad Poitras

St. Thomas More College is establishing a Ukrainian Studies Teaching Consortium (USTC) to meet the concerns and interests raised by both the Ukrainian Community and officials at the University of Saskatchewan. Peter MacKinnon, U of S President has expressed moral support for this project.

The teaching consortium is to involve the U of S, the University of Manitoba (Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies), the University of Alberta (Huculak Chair in Ukrainian Studies), and perhaps Harvard University (Ukrainian Summer Institute). The consortiums objective is to give students from the U of S access to courses on/in Ukrainian language, culture and civilization which normally would not be available at the U of S. It is hoped that the consortium will eventually allow for rotation of courses among the participating institutions in order to maximize the use of scarce teaching resources.

On May 10 St. Thomas More College Board of Governors approved the five year term appointment of Natalia Shostak as Co-ordinator of the USTC. Shostak, who comes from the U of A, is a member of the St. Thomas More College Faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Languages and Linguistics.

As Co-ordinator of the USTC, Shostak will be responsible to the Director of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. Shostak's primary duty will be to research possibilities and develop a plan and begin implementation of the USTC. Additionally, the Co-ordinator will be responsible for various courses determined by St. Thomas More College officials in the area of Ukrainian Studies.

Shostak holds a Bachelor of Arts from Kyiv State University and a Masters of Arts from the U of A. She is currently completing a Ph.D. at the U of A in Cultural Anthropology and Ukrainian Studies. Her areas of research and scholarly interests include, post-Soviet immigration to North America, Ukrainian diaspora, rural Ukraine and Ukrainian folklore and folklore studies. Shostak has been a Lecturer at the U of A, Harvard University, and the University of Toronto.

Ukrainian Catholic cathedral on the way in Kyiv

By Evgenia Mussuri, *Kyiv Post Staff Writer*

After four years of negotiations with city authorities, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic community has been granted a 1.7-hectare plot of land on Kyiv's Left Bank for construction of a new cathedral.

Lubomyr Huzar, the leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, said during the consecration of the site May 13 that the church should have a base in the centre of the country.

Currently, the nation's central Greek Catholic Church is in Lviv, one of two cities that will host Pope John Paul II in late June. The other is Kyiv.

Church officials estimate that Ukraine has 5 million Greek Catholic believers who attend some 3,700 churches, mostly in western Ukraine. There are an estimated 5,000 Greek Catholic believers in Kyiv. They have no cathedral and only three places of worship, which can accommodate only several hundred people, according to Irina Fedak, spokeswoman for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

"There is currently not enough room here for all the believers," she said. "In the summer it is possible to stand outside the church during the service, but in winter it is almost unbearable."

Fedak said a lack of places to worship has been preventing many Catholics from attending church.

"Our people are used to spacious churches," she said.

The new cathedral will accommodate up to 1,500 people. It will be erected in the Dnipro district on the Left Bank at Mykolsko-Slobidska.

The project's principal architect is Mykola Levchuk, who was selected after his design proposal took first place in a CIS-based international contest of construction projects in 2000.

The cathedral will take two years to complete. The finished building will stand 61 metres tall at the tip of the cross, making it one of the capital's tallest churches.

From a distance, however, the church won't appear to be significantly taller than the smattering of ornate churches across the river, Fedak said.

"It will not look higher than the churches on the Right Bank of Dnipro," Fedak said. "Because the Left Bank is much lower than the Right."

Moscow protests attack on Lviv Russian centre

(RFE/RL)—The Russian Foreign Ministry on May 18 protested an attack on the Russian cultural centre in Lviv, calling on Ukraine to take steps to avoid further incidents, Interfax reported.

Moscow said it "expects an appropriate reaction by the Ukrainian authorities to the action of western Ukrainian radical right-wingers."

The previous day unknown attackers set fire to a side door of the centre, smashed a window, and painted an inscription reading "The Revenge of Galicians."

ITAR-TASS reported that the arson attack was staged by the "Galician Wolves," a nationalist organization hitherto unknown to the police.

Meanwhile, Andriy Bolkun from the Lviv Oblast Administration said the attackers wanted to thwart the visit of Pope John Paul II to Ukraine, the "Eastern Economist Daily" reported.

Tatars mark 1944 deportation

(RFE/RL)—Some 15,000 Tatars gathered in Simferopol on May 18 for a mass prayer to mark the 57th anniversary of the mass deportation of Crimean Tatars by Joseph Stalin, Reuters reported.

They called on the Ukrainian government to grant land rights to Tatar families in Crimea as well as improve welfare and support for returnees.

"The land issue is the most painful issue for us. Ukraine's existing laws cannot solve the problems of the Crimean Tatar people and do not take into account that the indigenous people are returning to Crimea from where they were deported," Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev told the agency.

Rada fails to approve land code

(Eastern Economist)—The Verkhovna Rada failed to approve the Land Code in the second reading May 24.

Only 160 deputies, of 226 needed and 379 present in the session hall, voted in favor of the bill.

Speaker Leonid Plyushch declared the draft code rejected and proposed a by-article voting on the code.

However, Communist faction deputies blocked the podium keeping Agrarian Committee Kateryna Vashchuk from reading aloud the articles.

Communist leader Petro Symonenko said the Code conflicted with the Constitution and the interests of the people.

The Rada's main legal department reported that the draft code is in need of technical-legal editing and improvements.

Bomb fails to take out Odesa TV director

(Eastern Economist)—Unknown persons tried to blow up the apartment belonging to the director of the local TV company Odesa Plius, Mykhailo Kolomey, reported Studio 1+1, May 28.

A bomb programmed to explode at 03:00 at night was attached to the entrance door of his flat. However, only the detonator exploded, leaving the main explosive untouched. This saved Kolomey's life.

Kolomey is certain that this was an attempt on his life and said he had received threats over the telephone earlier. Kolomey said he had even hired bodyguards, but had let them go in the evening.

Cardinals see Ukraine as bridge between East and West

(Zenit.org)—John Paul II's visit to Ukraine next month will help promote reconciliation between Catholics and Orthodox, say the country's two cardinals.

May 25, a day after the consistory's closure, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, major archbishop of Lviv, and Cardinal Marian Jaworski, archbishop of Lviv of the Latins, told the Vatican Press Office some of their expectations for the June 23-27 papal visit.

Ukraine is a land of Orthodoxy and Catholicism. The Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow opposes the papal visit, because it regards the trip as a support for the Greek-Catholics, who maintain the tradition and liturgy of the Orthodox Churches but are faithful to the Pope.

Cardinal Husar, leader of Greek-Catholics in Ukraine, sees things differently.

Greek-Catholics in Ukraine, who date back to 988, remained in the sphere of Constantinople's cultural influence, but did not separate from Rome in the Great Schism of 1054.

From then on, "this Church has wanted to be Catholic and Orthodox at the same time, because these concepts are not contradictory, but complement one another in the universality of the Catholic Church," Cardinal Husar explained.

"Indeed," he added, "the Church would not be totally Catholic, that is, universal, if it only accepted one rite, the Latin. The Church's catholicity entails its diversity and, as John Paul II often reiterates, it breathes with two lungs, the Eastern and Western."

Stalin banned the Greek-Catholics and forced them to join the Russian Orthodox Church. Those who refused were harshly persecuted and even killed. Their ecclesiastical properties were seized and given to the Russian Orthodox Church.

With perestroika, the Greek-Catholics were restored juridically, and an attempt was made to restore some of their confiscated property. The Moscow Patriarchate opposed the restoration, since the property included parishes which for decades formed part of the Orthodox Church.

"The future of our Church is to be a bridge, or better yet, a mediator between the Latin West and the Byzantine East," Cardinal Husar said. "Being astride these two cultures, we want to help both to understand one another mutually, because the difficulties we find in the ecumenical field are due above all to ignorance, and ignorance generates fear."

The objective of the papal visit is to help overcome these misunderstandings, the Greek-Catholic cardinal said. "If there was greater mutual understanding," he said, "there would be less fear."

For his part, Cardinal Jaworski explained that one of the great problems in the dialogue with Orthodoxy is due to the schisms that have occurred, especially in recent years.

"In my archdiocese," he said, "in addition to the Catholic Church there are four branches of the Orthodox Church. With the exception of Catholics, those who call themselves Christians do not know why they belong to one branch or another"

Ecumenical meeting on agenda for papal visit

(Zenit.org)— During his Ukraine trip John Paul II will not have a private meeting with Orthodox Metropolitan Archbishop Vladimir of Kyiv, out of deference to the Moscow Patriarchate.

Details of the trip, published by the Vatican May 17, apparently take into account the three schisms that divide the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

To avoid complications, the Pontiff will meet with the Pan-Ukrainian Council of the Churches and Religious Organizations in the Palace of the National Philharmonic of Kyiv.

Among the most symbolic moments of the visit are two beatification ceremonies of 27 Ukrainians, martyrs of Communism and Nazism. The Pope will also have a special meeting with the country´s youth.

With this visit the Pope will enter an ethnic-cultural area that Russians consider flesh of their flesh. The weight of the Ukrainian Church in Russian Orthodoxy is enormous. Ten years ago, there were more than 150,000 Orthodox parishes in Ukraine (only about 6,000 remained in Russia), 8,000 of which have emancipated from Moscow's jurisdiction.

The principal schism of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine was led by Metropolitan Filaret of Kyiv, who was Moscow Patriarch Alexy II´s main opponent in the Holy Synod. Filaret was excommunicated by the Moscow patriarch and reduced to the lay state. In response, Filaret proclaimed himself patriarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. At the same time, he has tried, with some success, to become the principal speaker of the Ukrainian political leaders.

Moreover, hundreds of parishes have adhered to the "autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church." This current is inspired in the "Orthodoxy of the catacombs," which never accepted Soviet dictates.

This Church maintains organizational centres abroad. It recognizes as its "spiritual guide" Metropolitan Konstantin, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States, discreetly supported by the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Husar says 'radical holiness' key to Christian unity

By Cindy Wooden, *Catholic News Service*

Christians will be one when holiness and turning away from the sin of division is the primary aim of ecumenism, says the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Speaking at the consistory of the world's cardinals May 22, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Lviv said the key to Christian unity is a "completely radical holiness" that challenges and changes everyone's way of acting and thinking.

In his text, which he made available to the press, Cardinal Husar looked particularly at what divides the Orthodox Church and the Eastern Catholic churches such as his own.

"Between Catholics of the Eastern tradition and the Orthodox there exists only one essential difference: communion with the bishop of Rome," he said.

To establish full union between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, the cardinal said, the Orthodox "must not change any of their patrimony; they only must open themselves to full communion with the successor of Peter."

"Everything else must remain intact. We must not ask anything more than this," Cardinal Husar said.

And, he said, at that point "we Eastern Catholic Churches will have concluded our historic function" and can rejoin the family of "the currently Orthodox sister churches as was our condition before the divisions."

Attempts by the Roman Catholic Church to impose changes on the Eastern Catholic Churches, he said, push them further from the heritage they share with the Orthodox and can make the re-establishment of union with the Orthodox impossible.

The division of Christianity is a "situation of disobedience to Christ," he told his brother cardinals.

Unity will be restored only when "a communion in holiness" is the priority of all Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant ecumenical efforts.

What is needed is a holiness "able to accept and welcome the other, always and everywhere recognizing him as a child of God, a holiness which does not leave one tranquil and does not tranquilize because it constantly and incessantly seeks full conformity to the will of Jesus Christ our Lord," the cardinal said.

"We are all heirs of the sin of divisions," he told the consistory. "No Christian can say to another: the fault of division lies with you alone."

The cardinal said the Gospel too often is used "for combat among us Christians, to divide us, and too seldom to unite us."

The Catholic Church will not be fully "catholic," he said, as long as the divisions remain.

"We must not resign ourselves to thinking of division as normal, but we must do everything so that communion is what is normal," Cardinal Husar said.

Communists protest Pope's visit

(Itar-Tass via COMTEX)—The Communist faction in Ukraine's parliament has called on Pope John Paul II to cancel his visit to Ukraine in June saying it was "untimely and undesirable".

The faction said in a statement on May 17 that the Pope aimed "to enhance Catholic positions which would aggravate inter-church relations, separatist trends in poly-confessional Ukraine".

It said the visit was "a deliberate and well-prepared political provocation".

The Communists fear the visit would infringe on the rights of Orthodox believers, who comprise a majority in Ukraine.

The planned Pope's meetings with dissenting Orthodox clergy is "a rude interference into the internal affairs of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine", according to the statement.

Cheremosh artistic director to receive Edmonton Arts Award

(Ukrainian Cheremosh Society)—Cheremosh Artistic Director Mykola Kanevets has been selected as one of the candidates to receive the 2001 City of Edmonton Salute to Excellence Arts Achievement Award.

The purpose of this award is to honour those individuals or groups who have gained national or international acceptance or recognition of outstanding achievement in one or more of the arts where considerable discipline, skill and training were required to attain recognition.

2001 is Mykola's 10th year as Artistic Director of the Ukrainian Cheremosh Society and during this time his outstanding talent as a Choreographer and Artistic Director has challenged Cheremosh to always be in the forefront of Ukrainian Dance in Canada. His knowledge and expertise in dance has "raised the bar" for this discipline.

He is university trained and a former Head of the Choreographic Department of the College of Culture in Kyiv, holding the distinguished qualifications of Ballet Master and Choreographer of the First Category. His background also includes instructing choreographic disciplines such as classical dance, national stage dance and the composition and delivery of dance.

He is easily one of the most qualified Artistic Directors of Ukrainian dance in North America and it is with considerable pride on the part of his "Cheremosh Family" that he now calls Edmonton (and Cheremosh) home! Mykola's genius at choreography is aptly displayed in all of his productions including a dance that he choreographed to honour his new home — Edmonton Hopak! This dance premiered at Edmonton's City Hall in March 1999 and since that time has become Cheremosh's "signature dance".

This dazzling piece of choreography has impressed audiences across Western Canada and as far away as Scotland.

Mykola Kanevets

Kanevets' talents are so much in demand that he is travelling, this summer, to Australia. He will be teaching a series of workshops in Ukrainian dance at the request of dance groups from the Sydney and Melbourne areas.

UCPBF backs multilingual network

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation is supporting an initiative to create a multilingual television network in Canada.

In a May 15 letter to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, president of the UCPBF, says her organization, with 17 locals across Canada, supports the application of World Télémonde (WTM) in its efforts to obtain licensing for a multi-language network.

Hepburn says her organization has been assured that Ukrainian-language broadcasting would be included on WTM.

"Canada aspires to be a multicultural society. However, without delivery instruments such as multi-lingual network designed to serve the non-French and English language minority, this is but a policy concept based on rhetoric rather than reality. As a people who have given about 110 years of service to Canada, and have strived against grave odds to service as a discernable building block in Canada's mosaic, Ukrainian Canadians see this as a positive recognition of our presence, belonging and enhancement in Canada," she says.

In a letter sent various ethnocultural organizations asking for their support, WTM says:

"Our proposed service will not only enrich those of us from the myriad of other cultures, it will also serve to enrich and enlighten all Canadians as to the cultures of the peoples of the globe.

"All of our world programming will be broadcast in the original language, yet remain accessible, in both English and French through state-of-the-art subtitles providing all Canadians with a direct window on the world."

The CRTC hearing is scheduled for sometime between June 19 and June 22.

St. Vladimir's College students to tour

(St. Vladimir's College)—The students of St. Vladimir's College in Roblin, MB, as part of their promotion-of-the College-Tour, will be performing a series of concerts in the following cities:

- In Selkirk, MB a concert on June 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School;
- Again in Selkirk, MB, a Divine Liturgy on June 11 at 9:00 a.m., at the Holy Eucharist Parish on 271 Sophia Street;
- In Cook's Creek, MB, a concert on June 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Hall;
- Again in Cook's Creek, a Divine Liturgy on June 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral;
- In Thunder Bay, ON, a concert on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Prosvita Society on 610 Simpson Street;
- Also in Thunder Bay, Divine Liturgy on June 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Protection on 289 North Court Street.
- In Kenora, ON, Divine Liturgy on June 17 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Nick's Parish on 430 - 4th Street North.
- Also in Kenora, a Concert on June 17 at 2:30 p.m. at the Macherd Park, on the Kenora Harbour Front.
- In Sarto, MB, a Concert on June 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian People's Home.
- Also in Sarto, Divine Liturgy on June 19 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church.
- And finally, in Winnipeg, a Concert on June 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the Holy Family Nursing Home Auditorium.

Vinok to hold fundraising dinner

(Vinok Worldance)—Vinok Worldance will be holding its annual fundraising dinner and silent auction June 16. This evening takes guests on a mock cruise to exotic destinations and will feature Vinok performing dances from different ports of call including Mexico, China and the Philippines. These cultures are also reflected in the dinner, drinks and atmosphere of this enchanting evening. Also performing this evening will be Edmonton's Tropical Breeze Polynesian Dance ensemble.

The event also features an outstanding silent auction. This year the inventory of available items includes a Mel Gibson autographed DVD, a CD signed by Natalie Cole, signed books by Shaquille O'Neill and Julia Child, autographed photos of Denzel Washington, Eddie Cibrian, and the cast of "Days of Our Lives". As well, we have beautiful pieces of art; luxury items such as facials and hair care products, and gift certificates for dinners, golfing, skiing and hotel accommodations.

For further information, please contact Jane Ostashewski or Jay Lind at 454-3739.

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Briefly

Kyiv to bid for 2016 Olympics

(Eastern Economist)—Kyiv city officials with the support of the State Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism Committee have decided to nominate the city in a bid to host the Summer Olympic Games in 2016, Committee Chairman Valeriy Tsybukh told Interfax Ukraine in Kyiv May 25. Kyiv is presently drafting relevant documents to submit to the International Olympic Committee.

Ukrainian News to cover Worlds

(UkrNews)—Ukrainian News will be covering the 2001 World Track and Field Championships in Edmonton August 3-12, both for its own readers and for the UNIAN News Agency in Ukraine. Two accreditation forms have been received. Both photographer Roman Petriw and editor Marco Levytsky are to be accredited.

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Community can help athletes train for Worlds, Bubka says

30-40 athletes expected from Ukraine

Sports

By Marco Levytsky

Edmonton's Ukrainian community can help Ukraine's athletes at the 2001 World Championships in Athletics by providing training facilities so that they can arrive earlier in order to prepare, says six-time world champion pole vaulter Serhiy Bubka.

Speaking with members of the Ukrainian community at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre, May 24, Bubka said people can also help with covering some of the costs involved with training.

He said he will be meeting with sports officials in Ukraine upon his return from Edmonton and will pass on the names of contact people here to them.

"Your help will be very important to us," Bubka said.

Bubka, who was visiting in order to help promote the games, said Ukraine is expected to send between 30 and 40 athletes to these games.

He said that he was very proud to represent Ukraine when the country became independent in 1991 because he was able to let people know that such a country existed.

When asked how he is identified in sports circles (one local newspaper referred to him as "Russian" in a recent headline), Bubka replied:

"I am Ukrainian and the world knows that I am Ukrainian and I represent Ukraine, so you shouldn't let that bother you. Everyone knows that Bubka is Ukrainian and those who don't know that, well we tell them that Bubka is Ukrainian."

When asked about Toronto's chances of hosting the 2008 Olympics, Bubka replied:

"I think Toronto is one of the favourites, there is no doubt, but I won't make a prediction."

Other contenders include Beijing and Paris.

When asked about the current state of sports in Ukraine, Bubka said it has declined due to lack of funding. He added that officials have to "wake up" and put some money in for future generations.

Attending the luncheon were four members of the Alberta Provincial Legislature — Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky and MLAs Dave Broda, Julius Yankowsky and Ray Danyluk.

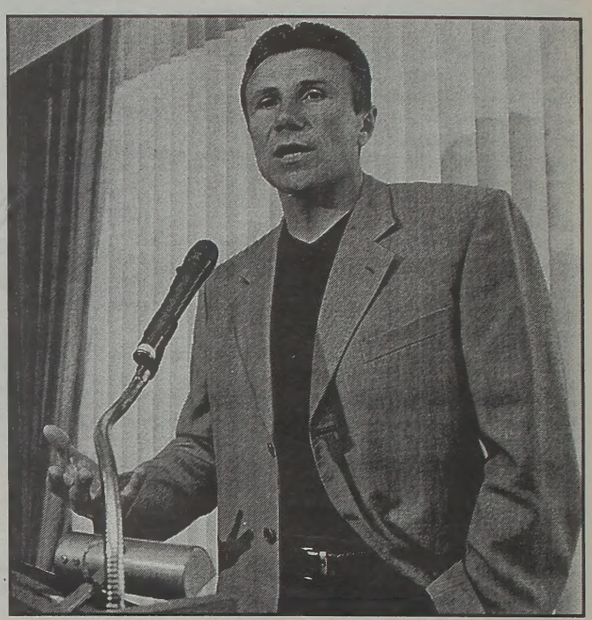

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Serhiy Bubka speaking at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre.

Shakhtar takes Ukrainian Cup

(UkrNews)—Shakhtar Donetsk won its third Ukrainian Cup with a 2-1 overtime victory over CSKA Kyiv in the final played before 56,000 spectators at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium, May 27.

Serhi Atelkin scored the winning goal for Shakhtar 29 minutes into overtime when he sent a volley coming from a cross from Koniushenko into the upper corner of CKSA Kyiv's goal.

"It was a true cup final and we are just overwhelmed with joy after this victory," said Shakhtar Coach Victor Prokopenko.

"And I can't say enough about Serhi Atelkin. He often has come through for us this season and today was no different."

Kyiv opened the scoring in the seventh minute when Monariov broke into the penalty box and kicked a soft cross along the goal mouth which Kostyshyn, left alone on front of the gate, headed into upper corner.

Both side has several chances, but no shots went in prior to the halftime break.

Six minutes into the second half, Shakhtar had a chance to equalize the score, but Aghahowa's shot just brushed the post.

Shakhtar got another chance in the 73rd minute with a free kick from 18 metres out, but Aliuta hit the "wall".

Then, with ten minutes to play in regulation time, Ndiaye missed on a powerful shot, but Atelkin picked up the ball and dribbled it past Reva into the net, sending the game into overtime.

Both sides had several chances in overtime.

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First black player joins Ukraine's national team

(Dailyfootball/Ukrainian Soccer news)—The first black player on the Ukrainian National Team scored in his first training game. The 17-year-old old midfielder from Metalurh Zaporizhia Victor Musonda is preparing for the European Championship with Ukraine's Under-17's.

"You are probably curious about my ancestry? My father, Peter, was from Zambia. He came to Zaporizhia for studies and met my future mother Tatiana. They divorced when I was 3. I stayed with my mom, Peter went back home. I visited him many times. He offered me to stay in Africa, but I got used to Zaporizhia and Ukraine... Two years ago I learned that Peter died from cancer. I have relatives in England, Germany. They invite me to visit, but I have no time. I just signed a 5 yrs contract with Metalurh, I am a part of the Ukraine Under-17 team. And in addition to all that, I study at the Department of Sport in Zaporizhia State University."

Who is your mother?

Before she worked as a nurse, but five years ago she became an interpreter for English.

Do you know English?

I was fluent when I was a kid, but now I lost it due to the lack of practice.

Do you have your own apartment?

No, we live in a house with a little land around.

Turkmen gas accord may also benefit Russia

Business

By Michael Lelyveld

(RFE/RL)—Russia's gas giant Gazprom could be a silent beneficiary of Turkmenistan's decision to become the prime gas supplier to Ukraine.

May 14 in Kyiv, Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov signed an accord with President Leonid Kuchma that will provide Ukraine with 250 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas over the next five years. Kuchma called the agreement "an historic event," saying that it would "ensure the needs of [the] economy and of the Ukrainian population for a stable energy supply."

This year, Turkmenistan is expected to export 30 bcm of gas to Ukraine. That amount could double by 2006, covering up to three-fourths of Ukraine's gas demand. Although Ukraine is the world's sixth-largest gas consumer, it produces only about 18 bcm per year. The remainder has come from Russia's gas monopoly, Gazprom.

The agreement with Turkmenistan would reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russia and could alter the mutual dependence which has been at the heart of the region's energy security problems for years.

About 90 percent of Russia's gas exports to Europe pass through Ukrainian pipelines. Gazprom pays Kyiv 30 bcm a year as a transit fee. But Ukraine has regularly diverted even more fuel to meet its needs. Kyiv now owes Russia about US$2 billion in gas debts, giving Gazprom a strong motive for seeking control over the transit pipelines.

Russia could object to the Turkmen deal on several grounds.

First, the alternate gas supply could lessen Russia's leverage over Ukraine and make it less likely that it will ever get repayment of its debt. Russia's reduced influence as a supplier might also make it more likely that Ukraine could divert gas with impunity.

In addition, more Turkmen gas for Ukraine could mean less available for Russia. Last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin reached a preliminary accord with Niyazov to buy 50 bcm of Turkmen gas a year. But the deal fell through because of disputes over the price. Now, it seems that the gas will go to Ukraine instead.

Moscow may also find reason to be unhappy about how much Ukraine has agreed to pay. Turkmenistan will charge Kyiv $42 per 1,000 cubic metres, allowing Ashgabat to impose its second price increase in recent months. In February, Russia reluctantly agreed to pay $40 after Turkmenistan halted its deliveries at the start of the year.

But despite all the drawbacks, there could be significant advantages for Russia. So far, Moscow has done nothing to block the Turkmen deal, which relies on transit through Russian pipelines to Ukraine.

One possible benefit is that it may reduce Russia's risk that Ukraine will pile up more debts for gas. That risk may now shift to Turkmenistan as Ukraine's new primary supplier.

Kyiv already owes Ashgabat some $400 million. Reportedly, it has been paying for half of the gas with cash in advance, with the rest in goods and services. But the real value of the barter is unknown, raising doubts about how much has been paid and how much is owed.

In addition, more Turkmen supplies may lower rather than raise the risk that Ukraine will divert Russia's transit gas since Kyiv will now have more gas to satisfy its needs.

"Petroleum Argus," an industry newsletter, says Gazprom may also profit because its trading partner Itera will take 40 percent of the gas as a transit fee. The provision makes the increase for Ukraine far smaller than most reports suggested.

Perhaps most important, the deal may make it possible to separate the gas flow through the region into two stages. Turkmen gas will supply Ukraine, while Russian gas will flow through Ukraine to Europe to be sold at a higher price.

If the plan works, Russia will benefit at least as much as Turkmenistan and Ukraine. And if it fails, Moscow's new ambassador to Ukraine, Viktor Chernomyrdin, can renew Russian efforts to gain control over the pipelines.

NaftoGaz Ukrayiny head faces tax probe

By Olga Kryzhanovska, *Kyiv Post Staff Writer*

The Prosecutor General's Office has opened a criminal case alleging that NaftoGaz Ukrayiny evaded more than Hr 770 million in taxes over three years, according to the country's top tax official.

State tax police head Oleksandr Spiridonov said this month that the Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation following a tax police audit of the company's financial and trade activities. Spiridonov claimed that the national joint stock company has failed to pay taxes since it was created by the Cabinet of Ministers in 1997.

A spokesman for the General Prosecutor's Office would not say whether a criminal case has been opened against the company or its officers.

Ihor Bakai, who headed NaftoGaz Ukrayiny between 1998 and 2000, was unavailable for comment. Bakai is a parliament deputy and member of the Rada's Democratic Union faction. A Democratic Union spokesman said Bakai had been absent from his duties as a member of parliament for "a long time."

Bakai has not been regularly present during parliamentary sessions for months, though he was sighted when the body met to enter a non-confidence vote in the Yushchenko government last month.

As a member of parliament, Bakai enjoys immunity from arrest, and his travel outside the country can't be restricted except by his colleagues in the Rada.

Mykola Azarov, head of the State Tax Administration, told New Channel television last March that he would insist that Naftogaz Ukrayiny's former management — led by Bakai — face criminal charges.

Azarov's comments came on the heels of Radio Liberty's release of portions of the Melnychenko tapes, which included a conversation ostensibly between Azarov and President Leonid Kuchma. The conversation centered on what the pair thought was the impudence of Bakai's manipulations at the gas company.

"I told Bakai the following: Listen little Ihor, you put a minimum hundred million in your pocket. I understand, of course, I won't betray you. You have two weeks, a month maximum," Azarov purportedly says on the tapes.

Shortly after the tapes appeared, Bakai disappeared from parliament.

Second Russian oil giant enters Ukraine's market

(Eastern Economist)—Slavneft opened a representative office in Kyiv May 24. Slavneft is a Russian state-owned but very aggressively developing oil company. Slavneft is a major rival to Russia's Tiumen Oil company, TNK, which bought 67% in Ukraine's 400,000 bpd LiNOS refinery in Lysychansk last July.

Slavneft's arrival on the market with massive imports of Belarussian-made motor fuel and its inability to act in coordinated manner with TNK promises further slumps in motor fuel prices, despite oil analysts' predictions of growth in crude oil prices later in the year.

President Leonid Kuchma discussed Slavneft's activity in Ukraine with the company's president Mikhail Gutseriev. Gutseriev said that since his last meeting with Kuchma in October 2000, Slavneft has made active steps in entering the Ukrainian oil products market.

He said 10 gas stations owned by Slavneft are already operating in Kyiv. He said there may be as many as 30 stations by the end of the year.

EE has learned that TNK is having difficulty with retail sales of fuel in Ukraine. At the same time, Slavneft has sold over 50,000 tons of gasoline and diesel fuel though its stations from March to May 2001. Slavneft has so far paid over Hr 3 million into Ukrainian state coffers.

Barter operations fall

(Eastern Economist)—Barter operations as a share of the gross volume of goods and services sold in Ukraine have fallen to 9.3% in the first quarter of 2001, compared to 34.8% in the first quarter of 1999, reported the State Statistics Committee, May 21.

Cheney's former company looking at Ukraine's market

(UkrNews)—A company which was once chaired by US Vice President Dick Cheney is looking to the Ukrainian market as a potential source for its oil field technology.

Les Kosendoff, International Business Development Manager for the Calgary office of Houston-based Halliburton Energy told Ukrainian News a delegation visited Ukraine recently to explore business opportunities and met with representatives of UkrNafta and UkrGazObuvannia.

"It a very preliminary operation that we have embarked upon, strictly an examination of the market situation," he said.

Kosendoff added that Halliburton was interested in Ukraine primarily because of the positive statistics that came during the tenure of former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko.

Now that Yushchenko has been voted out of office, Halliburton will have to "wait and see what happens." Nevertheless, he added, the company is still "cautiously optimistic" about the possibilities.

Halliburton as a manufacturer of oil field technology operating in 135 different countries.

Briefly

Government increases growth forecast

(RFE/RL)—Economy Minister Vasyl Rohovyy on May 16 said the dismissal of Premier Viktor Yushchenko's cabinet has so far not affected Ukraine's economy, Interfax reported. The State Statistics Committee reported that the country's GDP in January-April increased by 8.5 percent compared with the same period last year. Rohovyy said the government has increased its economic predictions for 2001 and now expects GDP to grow by 6.2 percent. The government announced previously that it expects the economy to grow 4 percent in 2001.

Budget surplus increases

(Eastern Economist)—The budget surplus in January-April 2001, was Hr 227.4 million compared to Hr 153.1 million in the same period last year, said the Finance Ministry, May 22. Budget revenues totaled Hr 11.5 billion, including interbudget transfers, which are nominally higher than in 2000.

Foreign investment declines

(Eastern Economist)—In January-March 2001, foreign investments in Ukraine declined 5.6% to US$168.3 million over the same period last year, reported the State Statistics Committee, May 20. CIS and Baltic countries invested $1.7 million, or 1% of the total. The State Statistics Committee reported that cash investments accounted for 66%, real estate and property investment — 32.9%, and securities investments - 0.5%, of all investment.

Privatization takes in Hr1.24 B so far

(Eastern Economist)—As of May 25, privatization revenue for the year has amounted to Hr 1.24 billion, said State Property Fund Chair Oleksandr Bondar addressing a seminar, May 28. Bondar said a total of Hr 560 million had been received from privatization in May and that plans called for receiving another Hr 450 million in the short term. Under the 2001 state budget, Hr 5.9 billion is to be collected from privatization. President Leonid Kuchma recently said he doubted that this figure would be achieved.

NaftoGaz reports more drilling

(Eastern Economist)—From January to April, NaftoGaz Ukrayiny companies conducted exploratory drilling of 63,477 metres and exploitative drilling of 107,748, reported UNIAN, May 22. Company officials said these figures were 67.2% and 14.3% more than those of the same period in 2000.

US may slap new steel quotas

(Eastern Economist)—US International Trade Commission has charged Ukraine, Indonesia and Poland with dumping reinforced steel. Currently the US Trade Department is deciding whether to introduce quotas for these countries, who altogether supplied 237,000 tons of such steel, worth US$47.7 million. Eleven US manufacturers filed the original complaint through US lawyer Allen Price.

Hungary's premier is fearful of turmoil in Ukraine

By Steven Erlanger

(The New York Time International)–Viktor Orban, at 37, is one of Central Europe's most unusual politicians, leading a political and cultural counterrevolution against what he considers the residue and inheritors of Hungary's Communist past.

He became famous in 1989 when, as a scruffy opposition leader, he called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, articulating the desires of the whole region.

Born in the provinces, he retains a visceral dislike for the tainted elites of the capital who he says collaborated with the old communist government.

He has moved his party, Fidesz, to the centre-right, hoping to create a lasting alternative to the Socialists, all the while plucking at Hungarian nationalist heartstrings.

He has pressed hard for entry to the European Union, sided firmly with the United States on a range of security issues and says Hungary, as one of the alliance's newest members, feels secure within NATO, which he would like to see expanded to Russia's borders.

But just now, in his third year as prime minister and as he prepares to meet President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for the first time, the new reach of president Vladimir Putin's Russia and the political turmoil in neighboring Ukraine seem uppermost in his mind.

"Ukraine is the key country in the whole new European security structure, and probably Ukraine deserves more attention," Orban said in an expansive interview, suggesting that it would be a prime topic for him in Washington, where the new administration has had little to say so far about Ukraine.

"Without the guaranteed independence of Ukraine, the whole post-cold-war security architecture of Europe is in danger," Orban said. "For Ukraine to maintain its independence, in all senses, especially in political and security terms, is vital for all of Europe."

With Ukraine's western-minded prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, ousted and President Leonid Kuchma facing constant protests as he is accused of corruption and ordering the murder of a journalist, Ukraine is open to meddling from Moscow, Orban said.

Both Yushchenko and Kuchma support a more democratic, Western style of government, Orban said. "What is going on now in Ukraine is an attack on this structure, to pull Ukraine back into the chaos where it was," he said. "And chaos in Ukraine opens up the possibility of the loss of Ukraine's independence, and the candidates for a more pro-Russian Ukrainian foreign and security policy are there - they are already on the stage."

He insisted that he did not want to speculate, but then added: "So who is behind this development? I would not forget about the possibility of the more Russian-oriented political groups."

Orban calls for a better attempt by the West to analyze Putin's efforts to reorganize Russia and restore its influence, this time not through tanks and soldiers but through economic might.

While tanks and soldiers are noisy and obvious, Orban said, much Russian money is hidden and laundered.

Efforts to buy shares in Hungarian energy and chemical companies are being investigated by the government, "and I've learned a lot," Orban said, aided by a unit of the F.B.I. here that concentrates on Russian organized crime.

"Free trade and economic cooperation are good things, and we don't want to discriminate against Russian capital," he said. "But it's not transparent capital. We worry that money laundering and organized crime and suspicious offshore companies are involved.

As for Russia, he said, "we should try to understand them with a Russian logic, but that doesn't mean accepting all their arguments." And he said he would like to see NATO expanded to include the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, a proposal strongly opposed by Moscow.

"I understand there are difficulties," he said. "I've been a politician for several years, but I still try to listen to my heart."

Orban appeals to allies for Ukraine

Opening a NATO foreign ministers meeting May 29, Viktor Orban, the Hungarian prime minister, appealed to the alliance and the European Union not to forsake Ukraine — a country in great political turmoil, reports the Associated Press.

Orban said it was in the interest of western nations to encourage Ukraine reforms and urged them to support the country's ambition to join the EU someday.

The EU has resisted making Ukraine an EU candidate.

Orban spoke at the opening of a NATO foreign ministers meeting. He urged alliance governments to support Ukraine's faltering reform attempts "even if their yield is not immediately evident."

Any slackening of support "would send the wrong signal," said Orban whose country borders Ukraine.

In recent weeks, the Hungarian leader has increasingly urged the United States and West European governments to do more for Ukraine.

Grenade-armed attacker surrenders to authorities

A man armed with a grenade who entered Ukraine's Agrarian Policy Ministry building in the capital Kyiv on May 29 surrendered to authorities, police said, reported the Associated Press.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the unidentified man was also armed with a sports pistol and a can apparently containing flammable liquid. He surrendered after talks with senior Interior Ministry officials.

Earlier, there were unconfirmed reports that the man had also seized hostages.

The Interfax news agency identified the man as a farmer from southern Ukraine who earlier had been denied permission to demonstrate near the ministry building.

Police and anti-terrorist units surrounded the building on Khreshchatyk, Kyiv's central street. A fire engine and an ambulance also were brought to the site.

Pivdenne to develop new rockets

(Eastern Economist)—The Dnipropet-rovsk-based Pivdenne design bureau has started work on a new series of Mayak booster rockets. Bureau spokesman Yuriy Alekseyenko said on May 28 that the bureau was working on its own so far, but was planning to attract Western investment in the future. He also said that the new booster rockets, which will put light spacecraft into orbit and will be of the small and medium class, would not compete with existing booster rockets. Alekseyenko said that the cost of designing the new rockets should not cost the state since Ukraine would not be investing its own money into the project. Alekseyenko explained that state funding was not available for helping Pivdenne develop such a rocket on its own.The Mayak-12 will be able to lift 1.7 t to altitudes of up to 500 km. The Mayak-23 booster rocket will be able to deliver 3 tons of cargo to a geo-stationary orbit.

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